

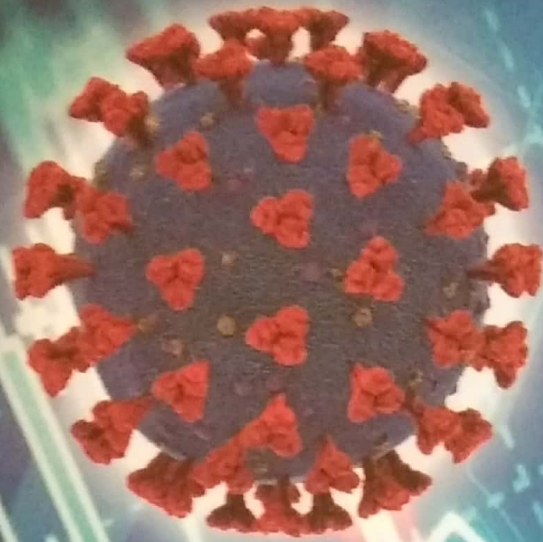
Pakistan-Turkey Partnership — Shamshad Ahmad

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The **Corona** Impact

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- ✓ The Future of the EU
- ✓ US-Taliban Peace Deal
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Coronavirus Eating up Economies

How to cope with the challenge

The Covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected every aspect of human life. Our health, social relationships, education, and all others spheres of life have been hit hard. But, its most profound impact has been on affairs related to trade and economic. While humans have known widespread famine, war and plague in the past, the sum of changes occasioned by Covid-19 is unprecedented, because the impact has almost simultaneously reached all regions of the world. That is why the scale of the global spread of coronavirus as well as the efforts to contain it has taken a colossal toll on global economy. In an effort to stem the spread of the killer virus, governments, in all parts of the world, enforced strict measures to lock down their countries and cities to varying degrees. That includes closing borders, shutting schools and workplaces, and limiting large gatherings. Owing to prolonged lockdowns,

there has been a complete halt in all trade-related activities and countries around the world are facing economic stagnation that is unprecedented in terms of its potential impact, and repercussions and ramifications thereupon.

It won't be an exaggeration to say that the impact of the pandemic has hit the world like a freight train as its aftereffects may be felt for many years to come. From the United Nations and the EU to the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and European Central Bank (ECB), all global bodies and financial institutions have warned that the days ahead will be very hard and trying for an overwhelming chunk of world population. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described "an economic impact that will bring a recession that probably has no parallel in the recent past," adding it was "the most challenging crisis we have faced since the Second World War." The IMF has warned that the world economy would shrink at its fastest pace in decades, raising fears it will be the worst recession since the 1930s Great Depression, adding that the negative economic effects will be felt "very intensively" in developing countries. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has estimated that some 1.6 billion people employed in the informal economy – or nearly half the global workforce – could see their livelihoods destroyed due to the continued decline in working hours brought on by lockdowns to curb the spread of COVID-19. Fitch Ratings has massively slashed its global growth forecast, saying, "The world GDP is now expected to fall by 3.9 percent in 2020, a recession of unprecedented depth in the post-war period." All these warnings seem getting materialized as we see growth rates of economies falling sharply. For instance, the United States economy, which is the world's largest, sank at an annual rate of 4.8%, the first contraction since 2014 and its severest contraction in more than a decade. The world's second largest economy, i.e. China, has also recorded a drastic fall. According to a report by the Wall Street Journal, China's gross domestic product in the first quarter of FY 2020 dropped 6.8 percent compared to a year earlier — it has dropped the very first time since Beijing's National Bureau of Statistics began announcing the figure in 1992. Amidst continual lockdowns, these figures suggest that there will be accelerated job losses in developed as well as developing countries. The ILO has estimated that compared to pre-crisis levels, there will be 10.5 percent deterioration in working hours during the second quarter of the current fiscal, equivalent to 305 million full-time jobs. In a bid to cope with the harmful economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, governments are giving trillions of dollars in stimulus packages to help prop up their economies. However, it is an undeniable reality that richer countries can afford to dole out huge sums of money in relief packages, but it is almost impossible for developing countries like Pakistan, which are already debt-ridden and have scant sources at their disposal to feed their huge populations.

Pakistan will inevitably be impacted by both the global and domestic developments arising from the spread of the virus. The country's economy was recovering earlier slowly under the umbrella of an IMF programme but now the process of growth has been hampered, leading to big increases in unemployment, poverty and hunger.

Government of Pakistan has estimated that in the aftermath of the outbreak of coronavirus, even under moderate restrictions, employment loss could be up to 12 million, around 20% of the employed labour force of the country, and that the total losses could be as high as Rs 2.5 trillion. Although the government has declared an extensive Economic Relief and Stimulus package worth Rs1.25 trillion to support low-income families, food security, small and medium sized businesses, agriculture and exports, it can never be sufficient for a huge population of 210 million. The world must come forward to help Pakistan and other developing countries to cope with the situation. Desperate times call for desperate measures. Now is the time for all the world leaders to come together and employ coherent, coordinated, credible strategy actions to mitigate the economic fallouts and protect the most vulnerable in our societies from what is already and sadly a social catastrophe.

As for Pakistan, the lockdown in most parts of the country has largely impacted industrial activities, and, resultantly, economic regression. The situation demands that besides handling the other issues related to the deadly virus, the government embarks on the plans to open up the economy as early as possible. The opening of construction sector is a good decision in this regard as it will help revive a number of other industries and employ hundreds of thousands of those who have been reeling under the claws of hunger and poverty.



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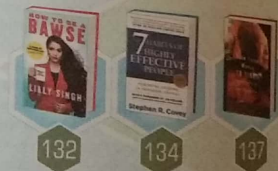
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Price Hikes in Ramzan

Regrettably, Ramazan in this country has become synonymous with artificial inflation in essential kitchen items. Every Ramazan, shopkeepers go about their usual looting and exploitation. It was sincerely hoped that this year would be different; not because our shopkeepers and traders have suddenly developed some sorts of scruples, but rather because of the unusual times that all of us find ourselves in. Almost everybody has been shut in for weeks. Many people have had their sources of income compromised. Plus, it's just not easy to go out very often even for the most essential items. In such times, for some people to exploit other people simply because the latter have no choice is simply unforgivable. And, as per tradition, shopkeepers have been raising prices of fruits and vegetables regardless of all the miseries of the people and warnings from the government. Yet the government's usual response is precisely the problem. It is always big on warning and small on action. Even now, as it warns of the strictest action against any form of price manipulation or hoarding, market old timers are acting as if they have seen it all before and nothing is really going to change. It is up to the government now to put its muscle where its mouth is.

Zian Raza Meer
Narawal

Pre-empting Dengue

Dengue has become an annual challenge for our government that cannot be taken lightly. Especially nowadays, when COVID-19 seriously consumes the government's efforts and resources, the authorities cannot afford any laxity. The health sector across the country is under immense pressure. Officials must step up their efforts to eliminate dengue larvae before it is too late and the endemic takes its toll on citizens of the country. As door-to-door surveillance is difficult, the state must rely on data and previous experience to ramp up its prevention efforts against the spread of dengue. First steps in this regard must be running an awareness campaign over cleaning and the elimination of potential breeding grounds for dengue larvae. The best way to prevent dengue fever is to eliminate pockets of stagnant water that serve as mosquito breeding sites at home, at schools, workplaces and their vicinity, and to avoid mosquito bites. Curtailing the breeding of dengue carrier mosquitoes can largely contain the problem before it gets unmanageable. The state cannot forget the lessons from last year. Late last year, the WHO identified dengue as one of 10 threats to global health. And with COVID-19, dengue will test the capacity of Pakistan's health sector even more. If the state is able to nip the problem in the bud, it will be a relief for medical professionals, as they are already fighting a battle against coronavirus. As the saying goes, prevention is better than cure. The government must not lose sight of the multiple challenges facing the country, however difficult that may be during a pandemic.

Raza Ali Hasni
DG Khan

Letters to the Editor

For feedback and suggestions, please write to

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Early Marriages

Today, many countries have declared 18 years the legal minimum age for marriage. That is why early-age marriages should be promoted in our society. From the Stone Age to the modern civilization, this has always been an important issue. Although many critics argue that such a marriage is the worst thing done to a girl, yet it is true that these marriages have many benefits. Due to early marriage, most girls have early pregnancies. For women, an early marriage is safer in terms of pregnancy because late marriage sets the biological clock ticking and leaves more scope for miscarriages. Early marriage gives more time for couples to pursue their career comfortably and plan a child soon after. In Islam, the idea of early marriage is highly encouraged. In this way, people have more time for their spouse instead of indulging into Western-style friendships.

Iqra Hamayoon
Rawalpindi

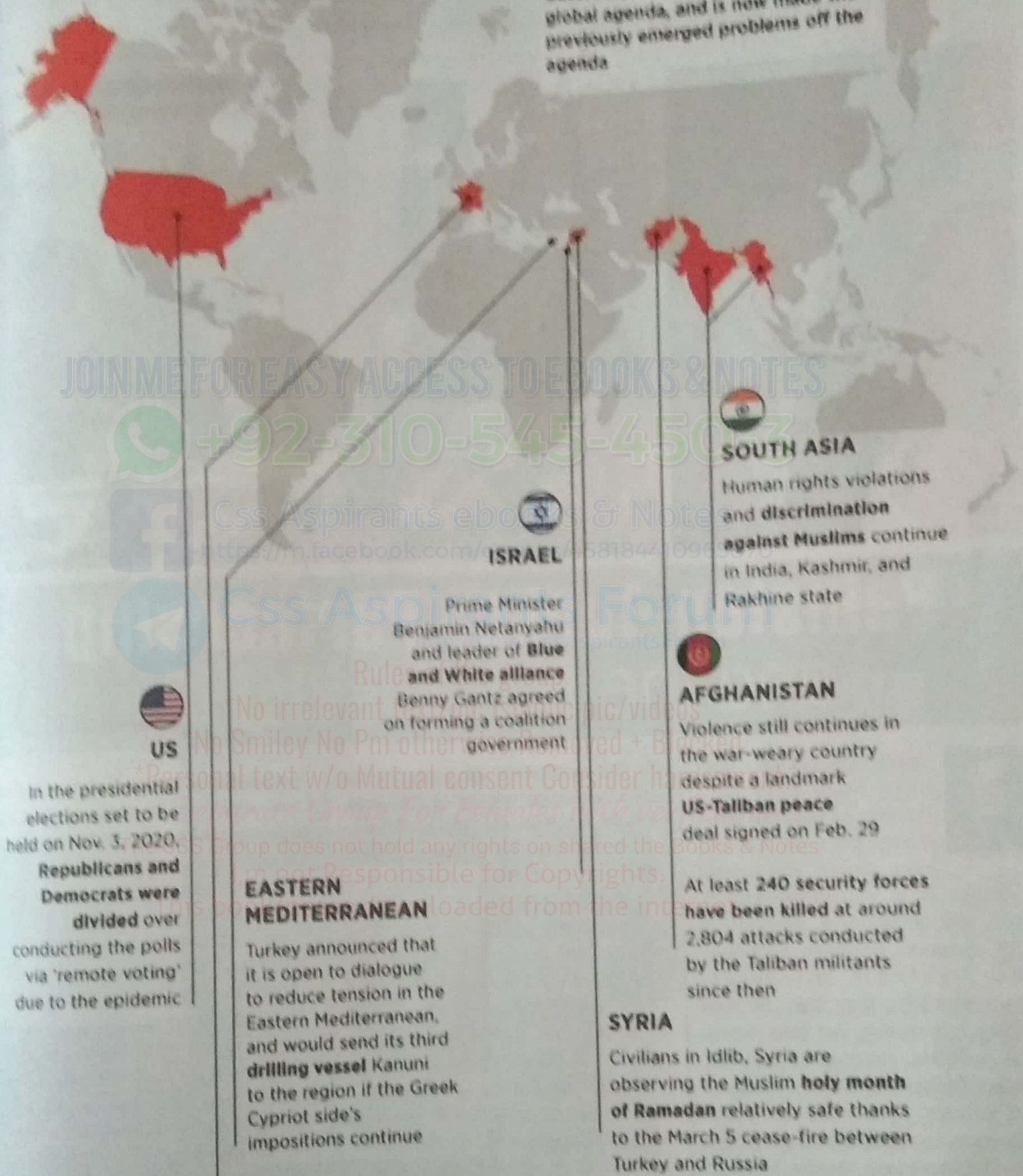
Faith and Healthy Environment

Faith provides spiritual and practical support to billions of people, especially in times of crisis. We are seeing this in action yet again as churches, mosques, temples, other places of worship and faith-based organizations around the world offer support, food, housing, donations and medical services during the pandemic. Such solidarity is sorely needed as millions suffer the physical, economic and emotional toll of Covid-19. But faiths, and those who lead them, have a greater role to play. They can, and must, help prevent worse crises from happening in the future by wielding their huge influence to improve humanity's stewardship of the planet. Their institutions are among the oldest and most long-standing and provide essential services to billions of people around the globe, making them essential partners in normal times as well as in an emergency. Faith-based organizations own a large number of educational institutions, so they can lead on efforts to raise awareness about the linkages between human health and planetary health. As things stand, humanity, in its hubris, is tearing down the house that so many believe their creator provided. Faith leaders need to continue to use their considerable influence to push for a healthy planet, just as believers must heed the call in the traditions of every faith.

Sajjad Bokhari
Karachi

Coronavirus pandemic has overshadowed other global problems

As people across the world are grappling with the novel coronavirus outbreak, the virus is on top of the global agenda, and is now made the previously emerged problems off the agenda



US

In the presidential elections set to be held on Nov. 3, 2020, Republicans and Democrats were divided over conducting the polls via 'remote voting' due to the epidemic



ISRAEL

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and leader of Blue and White alliance Benny Gantz agreed on forming a coalition government



SOUTH ASIA

Human rights violations and discrimination against Muslims continue in India, Kashmir, and Rakhine state



AFGHANISTAN

Violence still continues in the war-weary country despite a landmark US-Taliban peace deal signed on Feb. 29

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Turkey announced that it is open to dialogue to reduce tension in the Eastern Mediterranean, and would send its third drilling vessel Kanuni to the region if the Greek Cypriot side's impositions continue

SYRIA

Civilians in Idlib, Syria are observing the Muslim holy month of Ramadan relatively safe thanks to the March 5 cease-fire between Turkey and Russia

GLOBAL PROTESTS

Protests, which erupted last year and some of them took for months, are still ongoing despite restrictions as part of COVID-19 measures

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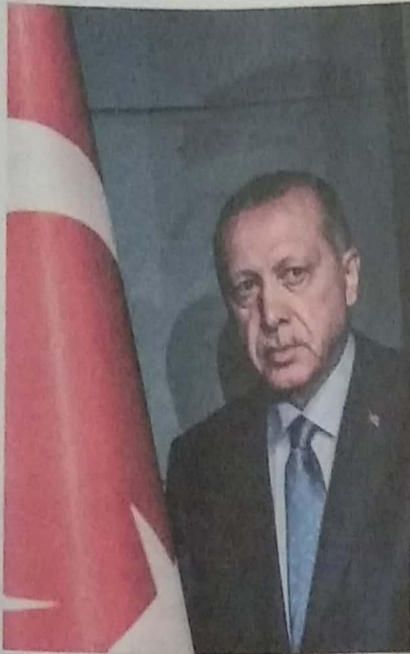
Civilians in Idlib, Syria are observing the Muslim holy month of Ramadan relatively safe thanks to the March 5 cease-fire between Turkey and Russia

GLOBAL PROTESTS

Protests, which erupted last year and some of them took for months, are still ongoing despite restrictions as part of COVID-19 measures

Shamshad Ahmad

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's recent visit to Pakistan came at a testing time for both countries, and manifested truly the special nature of their fraternal relationship. Pakistan-Turkey ties are rooted in their history and culture going back to the centuries of Muslim rule in India, but a unique emotional dimension of this relationship goes back almost a century ago when, in the 1920s, the Muslims living in India and in areas that later became Pakistan launched Khilafat Movement in support of the Ottoman Empire. The Khilafat Movement was also a factor contributing to the ideological rationale for the creation of an independent state in Subcontinent's regions where Muslims constituted a majority.



Pakistan-Turkey Partnership and the Muslim World



Turkey and Pakistan both have been part of a number of regional blocs during the Cold War and even today are bound together in a multidimensional, close and cooperative relationship with common political, economic and strategic interests. Geographically, they may be two different countries, but their hearts beat together, sharing, as they do, deep affinities of history, religion and culture. What is even more important in today's context is the globally important unique location that both Turkey and Pakistan enjoy

at the confluence of some of the most important regions of the world. These include the poverty-and-tension-ridden South Asia, conflict-afflicted West Asia, resource-rich, strategically-located Central Asia, economically-pulsating East Asia, stormy and violent Middle East and the oil-rich Persian Gulf. Both Turkey and Pakistan are virtual transcontinental bridges, linking, as they do, at their respective ends the continents of Europe and Asia. With their unique geopolitical location and enormous material and human resources, they have a key role to play, charted for them by their

geography as major factors of peace and stability in their respective regions. Linked to their geopolitical importance, both have shared understanding on regional and global affairs.

Both countries are part of restive yet dynamic neighbourhoods, with powerful neighbours and ongoing conflicts threatening to spill, and in some cases spilling, into their borders. Both countries have also had to deal with attempts by other powers to contain their influence, a seemingly natural by-product of their geographical significance. Both have had a colonial power behind a

summering territorial dispute that has become a part of their respective national psyches. Additionally, both also had had to grapple with their identities as Muslim countries in the context of their own cultural perspectives.

These shared features of their history and geography are a part of, if not the reason behind, the many lessons learned for both countries.

Turkey supports the cause of self-determination for the people of Indian-Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, and Pakistan stands by Turkey on the question of Cyprus.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Erdoğan, Pakistan-Turkey relations have further fortified into an enduring partnership. They are determined to translate their

broadening of the Pakistan-Turkey strategic partnership. Both sides used this opportunity to place special emphasis on forging a robust economic relationship. Besides agreeing on a strategic economic framework with vast scope for cooperation, the two countries signed thirteen agreements, opening fresh avenues of cooperation in many areas of mutual interest



No wonder, President Erdoğan's latest visit to Pakistan provided them an opportunity to go over those lessons and explore how they could, together, play a role as leading players in the Muslim world. They already have a unique and abiding relationship characterized by mutual support and exceptional trust and understanding. The two brotherly countries have always been each other's steadfast partners.

historic amity into vibrant cooperation in diverse fields, including in the context of combating Islamophobia, promoting Islamic solidarity, and advancing shared goals of regional peace, security and stability.

President Erdoğan's visit served to underscore the traditional solidarity and affinity between the two countries and proved to be another significant milestone in further

including trade, investment, banking, finance, energy, tourism, culture, science, communication, education, defence, railways, etc.

Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Erdoğan have been able to establish a rapport that can provide them with a joint vision to mobilise a new collective impulse needed for the Muslim world to recover its lost glory and regain clout on the global scene. The challenges are daunting indeed. Peace is the essence of Islam but ironically the Muslim nations have seen very little of it, especially after the Second World War with most of the wars taking place on Muslim soils (Middle East, Iraq, Iran, Gulf States, Afghanistan and Pakistan).

Conflict and violence are pervasive in the Muslim world. The tragedies in Palestine, Kashmir, Bosnia, Chechnya, Iraq and Afghanistan represent the continuing helplessness of world's Muslims. Since 9/11, Islam itself is being demonised by its detractors with obsessive focus on the religion of



individuals and groups accused of complicity or involvement in terrorist activities. Islam is being blamed for everything that goes wrong in any part of the world. With violence and extremism becoming anathema to the world's high-and-mighty, Muslim freedom struggles of yesterday are now seen as the primary source of 'militancy and terrorism'.

Representing one-fifth of humanity as well as of the global land mass spreading over 57 countries and possessing 70 percent of the world's energy resources and nearly 50 percent of the world's raw materials, the Muslim world should have been a global giant, economically as well as politically. Instead, it represents only 5 percent of world's GDP. Though some of them are sitting on top of the world's largest oil and gas reserves, the majority of the Muslim countries are among the most backward in the world.

Mostly, poor and dispossessed nations emerging from long colonial rule may have become sovereign



mortgaged to the West not only the security and sovereignty of their respective countries but also the political and economic future of their nations.

But things now have come to the boiling point. The winds of change are already sweeping across the long-tormented Arab world. Alarm bells are ringing loud and clear from the Maghreb to the Arabian Peninsula. The 21st century will belong to whosoever makes the best use of its challenges and opportunities. Angels will not descend to help it or salvage its difficulties. There is an urgent need for Muslim countries to commit

Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Malaysia, Indonesia and Egypt. They have the potential to lead the process of change in the Muslim world. But this requires statesmanship of exceptionable calibre that can rise above vested interests and divisive tendencies to be able to forge a fresh collective impulse that leads the Muslim world into a new era of unity and strength to make it a strong, cohesive global entity in political, economic and security matters. Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan, Prime Minister (former) Mahathir of Malaysia and President Erdoğan of Turkey alone promise the needed statesmanship that can



states, but they still lack genuine political and economic independence. Their lands and resources are still being exploited by the West. What aggravates this dismal scenario is the inability of the Muslim world as a bloc to take care of its own problems or to overcome its weaknesses. Its rulers have

themselves to scientific and technological advancement. They must also take control of their own resources.

This, in fact, is the crux of the challenge that lies ahead not only for Pakistan and Turkey but also the other most influential Muslim countries in the world which include

bring the Muslim world together. They should jointly work out a framework of cooperation for the entire Muslim world in the fields of education, economy, science and technology, economy and counter-terrorism. 2

The writer is a former foreign secretary.

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M. IKRAM RABBANI

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

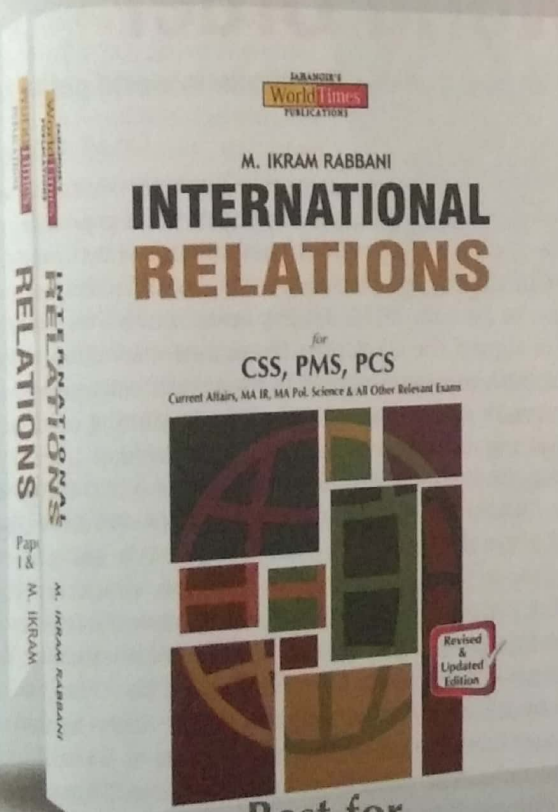


Shamshad Ahmad
Former Foreign Secretary

PAKISTAN AND WORLD AFFAIRS

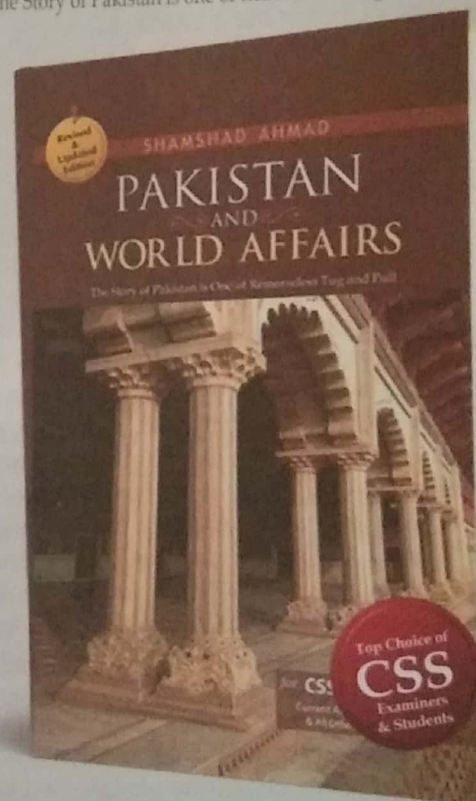
The Story of Pakistan is one of Remorseless Tug and Pull

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The coronavirus pandemic has already become the main event of the ongoing year, relegating other dramatic news of recent months to the background. It also turned out to be the most severe stress test for the global economic and financial system, for many international organizations and public administration mechanisms in individual countries. Most experts, journalists and politicians focus on the economic and financial impact of the pandemic; however, we should not forget about the political, or rather political and psychological, consequences; they are not as noticeable, but no less important. Indicators of global political trends and sentiments today are as alarming as are the those of global economic trends. The preliminary results of the coronavirus test on humanity reveal clear signs of a political and psychological immunodeficiency or an absence of the instinct that is inherent in any biological species to protect one's own population.



Coronavirus Rattles World Order

Has the killer virus expanded faultlines in world politics?

Dr M. Usmani

On March 23, United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, issued a passionate cry for a "global ceasefire," asking countries to put down their arms and collectively combat the coronavirus pandemic which, in his words, is "the true fight of our lives". Yet, even if armed conflict were to dissipate, it appears that Covid-19 has only magnified and expanded existing fractures in world politics. At this critical juncture, in which the global community is acutely vulnerable to the squabbles of great power politics, world leaders and countries have further entrenched the deep-seated faultlines within international relations. The "sickness of war," as Guterres puts it, has long been an indelible feature of geopolitics, and is unlikely to loosen its grip, even in the face of a global pandemic. US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping have repeatedly traded punches in an escalating trade war since January 2018, when Trump first imposed tariffs on solar panels and washing machines. It was estimated that the trade war cost the US roughly 300,000 jobs and \$40 billion in lost exports. Furthermore, US companies had to pay an additional \$46 billion in tariffs, while US consumers were forced to spend roughly \$800 more per year due to increased prices. Similarly, it cost

China \$35 billion in lost exports. Given the two countries' interdependency, wherein 60 percent of all exports from China to the US are products manufactured by American firms in China, this trade war was mutually destructive. Hence, in January 2020, Trump and China's Vice Premier Liu He signed the US-China Phase One trade deal, under which both countries agreed to lower tariffs. It was seen as a landmark event that signalled the beginning of a more cordial and mutually-beneficial relationship.

During the ongoing pandemic, Trump said that countries were "working well together" when he believed that numbers in the United States and China were going down, and he, in fact, praised his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping's 'strong leadership'. However, once the falsehood of his proclamations was uncovered, and numbers in the US began rising exponentially, he quickly changed his tune by blaming China (apparently, in order to deflect criticism from his mishandling of the crisis). Soon, Trump and his administration began parroting the 'Wuhan Virus' and 'Chinese Virus' narrative ad nauseam. Furthermore, at the G-7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the countries failed to formulate a joint statement due to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's insistence that the statement refer to Covid-19 as the 'Wuhan Virus'. The other leaders refused to do so, as they considered the term to be divisive at a time where

greater cooperation was required. However, expecting unity without a price under the Trump administration is naïve at best.

China, too, has not backed down in the face of this verbal onslaught by the US leadership. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian initiated a war of words with US President Donald Trump when he tweeted a conspiracy theory that the coronavirus was introduced to Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, by the US military. Zhao told reporters that "no conclusion has been reached yet on the origin of the virus" and that those who say it originated in China have "ulterior motives". Another Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, said that the Trump administration's repeatedly calling it the Chinese or Wuhan Virus is a "despicable practice" that 'disrespects' science and the World Health Organization (WHO).

While both countries insist that the trade deal signed in January remains in place, the volatility of US decision-making under Trump leaves the said agreement and Sino-American relations in a precarious position.

Similarly, after Donald Trump withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as Iran Nuclear Deal, in 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran, the latter slipped into the deep recesses of a crumbling currency, skyrocketing prices and increasing unemployment. Trump hopes that the intensification of sanctions, through a 'maximum pressure' strategy, will force Iran to renegotiate

the terms of the nuclear deal. The crippling impact of US sanctions has been magnified during the Covid-19 pandemic, during which Iran is struggling to acquire masks, gloves, protective clothing, medicine and medical equipment, or even receive humanitarian aid. While the US did offer aid to Iran, some have suggested that this olive branch is simply an arm-twisting measure to force Iran to accede to American demands on the nuclear deal.

Thus, like a cornered tiger, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei refused the US' poisoned chalice of aid. However, he didn't stop there. Like Zhao Lijian, Khamenei, too, spouted unfounded conspiracies, saying that US doctors and therapists would only come to Iran to see the "effect of the poison they have produced in person" and that the virus "is specifically built for Iran using the genetic data of Iranians which they have obtained through different means." Thus, rather than ushering in a new era of cooperation and compassion, the US has used the coronavirus pandemic to advance its existing policy objectives, while Iran's leadership has retreated even

further into a greater state of volatility and paranoia, thus eliminating the possibility of meaningful dialogue and a symbiotic relationship.

The Trump administration has also gleefully pounced on this opportunity to cement its hardline immigration stance. With the closure of its southern border, where asylum-seekers are being turned away without a right to a court hearing or an investigation into the validity of their applications, Trump has finally achieved one of his campaign promises: stopping immigration from the south. And even without a border wall! Admittedly, such measures are necessary given the current situation; there is no other alternative. However, the administration's declaration that it is doing this for the asylees' own good, by not "incarcerating them in closed facilities, where the disease can quickly spread," is questionable, to say the least. The Trump administration's concern for asylees' 'own good' never stopped it from expanding the operations of border detention centres along the southern border. It never stopped it from separating children from

their families and placing them in squalid conditions and in standing-room-only cells with no hot meals.

Nor did it bat an eyelid to the rampant sexual and physical abuse in these detention centres, where mumps, measles, chickenpox, the flu, and scabies are commonplace.

Furthermore, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, said, "During this pandemic, a number of health challenges arise when illegal immigrants arrive at

our northern and southern borders and are taken into immigration custody." Similarly, Trump's campaign sent out a message to supporters reading: "Pres. Trump is making your safety his #1 priority. That's why we're closing BORDERS to illegals." While limiting entry to the US is a crucial component of disease control and prevention, the administration has frequently framed such policy decisions with an emphasis on controlling illegal immigration rather than on protecting public health, perhaps indicating that it is using the coronavirus as a pretext to achieve existing policy objectives.

This anti-immigrant sentiment has seen a resurgence in Europe as well, where the coronavirus has propelled a new wave of far-right white supremacy. In Germany, the neo-Nazi group Die Rechte, The Right, says that borders should have been sealed off weeks ago to all "non-Europeans". In Ukraine, the far-right Azov movement said that Covid-19 "generally isn't the fault of white people" and that ethnic minorities in Italy are to blame. In Italy, far-right opposition leader Matteo Salvini blamed



Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's government for allowing a boat carrying 276 African migrants to dock in Sicily. Although no cases in Italy have been traced back to any of these passengers, Salvini called for "armor-plated" borders. The governor of Veneto, one of Italy's hardest-hit regions, compared the "hygiene" and "cultural training" of Italians, who, according to him, have a habit of "taking a shower, of washing, [and] of washing one's hands often", with the Chinese, who he said "all eat live mice or things like that."

In addition, Hungary's leader, Viktor Orbán, who has long campaigned against non-European migrants, exclaimed, "We are fighting a two-front war, one front is called migration, and the other one belongs to the coronavirus, there is a logical connection between the two, as both spread with movement." These calls for border closures, driven in large part by anti-immigrant sentiment rather than concerns for public health, have also been echoed by Austria's Freedom Party; Spain's far-right Vox party leader, Santiago Abascal; and Marine Le Pen, the leader of France's far-right National Rally party.

The underlying motives of such attitudes were laid bare by the Identitarian Movement in Germany, who unfurled "DEFEND OUR BORDERS" banners in Berlin. In a social media post about the demonstration, the group wrote, "Whether because of the [coronavirus] or the onslaught of thousands of illegal immigrants, [...] border protection is a legitimate and effective way to protect a population."

Russia, too, has used the coronavirus epidemic to fall back on its tried and trusted strategy of sowing mistrust, instability, and panic by ratcheting up its disinformation campaigns to undermine the power and influence of Western powers. Thousands of accounts have been posting bogus claims that the virus was bioengineered by the US' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to "wage economic war on China" and "push anti-China messages". Given the influence of Russian "discourse saboteurs" on the 2016 US presidential election, the impact of these obfuscations of the truth on public health outcomes during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic is potentially catastrophic. Moreover, considering the propensity for Chinese and Iranian leadership to advance these conspiracy theories, either to deflect criticism from themselves or to support their confirmation biases of American puppeteering, they can have dire consequences

for diplomatic relations as well.

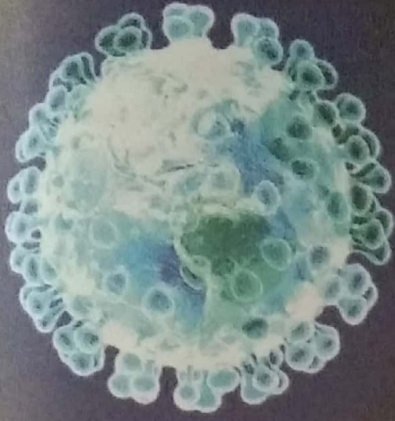
In response to this potentially insurmountable threat, the UK government created a special unit to combat Russian disinformation. Likewise, the Trump administration accused "Russian malign actors" of creating thousands of fake Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts to "threaten public safety by distracting from the global health response". A monitoring team from the European Union's (EU) diplomatic service, too, collected "examples of disinformation" from "Pro-Kremlin media outlets". They argue that these outlets wish to "aggravate the public health crisis in western countries" and "undermine public trust in national healthcare systems." As for India, in the months leading up to the coronavirus crisis, China and India were both involved in reciprocal maritime posturing, wherein China was forging closer ties with Pakistan to undermine India's influence in the Arabian Sea and across the Indian Ocean. Therefore, while BJP's State unit president in Bengal, Dilip Ghosh, may not be a very high-ranking official, his comments that the

"coronavirus infection started from China", and that "[China] has destroyed nature", and that the coronavirus is "God's revenge" against China may be seen as a continuation of these bubbling tensions between the two countries. In fact, the Chinese Consulate in Kolkata "strongly condemned" Ghosh's "erroneous", "ridiculous and irresponsible statement that is totally contrary to basic

common sense". Given the growing discord between India and China, the burgeoning bonhomie between Trump and Modi, and the deepening anti-China sentiment among India's public during the ongoing pandemic, a continued propagation of anti-China narratives from Indian government officials—and the continued disintegration of Sino-Indian

ties—is not entirely unlikely. During the recently held G-20 Virtual Summit, leaders unequivocally called for a new era of globalization, in which countries take a collaborative approach to usher in a 'reformed multilateral' order. However, given that the coronavirus crisis has only forced countries to retreat further into their shells, pursue existing policies with greater ferocity, and engage in vitriolic name-calling, it seems unlikely that this pandemic will force countries to construct a more cooperative international political framework. ■





The cruising altitude of the latest Covid-19 fear has induced gut-wrenching horror. It has inevitably, yet conveniently, stirred a whirlwind of emotions in us all. While we all await our mysterious destiny trying to stay positive as we work from home or make arrangements otherwise to remain productive and relevant, we need to take a few moments for a conscious reflection. We need to halt our mundane routine and regimental thought processes and need to assess our regimes, our purposes and our well-being. It all calls for a comprehensive reflection that entails embracing the lessons we are fortunate to postulate these days when time is actually on our surplus commodity, and planning to do the most with it is literally in our hands, home, head and heart.

Nature vs. Nurture

Need for a new social contract

Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq

While we are at it, this inexorable break is unveiling significant realities of our lives, thereby making us unsurprisingly realize the connotation of multitudinous gifts that surround us. We will find us unravelling the forces of nature that supersede human powers, confronting us with our preparedness for the future. We will learn how the gravity of such pandemics can uproot the firmest of footings of nuclear powers and strangle the jugular vein of the human body.

What we effortlessly evaded is the fact that nature made its punctuated attempts at waking us up from the ever-so-engaging slumber, ruled by self-pleasing and appealing dreams that we kept putting off the call of our true purpose. Organically, when the global pandemic opened our eyes, we came abreast with all that can be lost, all that we kept putting off for a later date, perhaps, all that could have been done - all that had to be done. We were shaken to the core about our plans that we prearranged on a day we hardly knew we would even survive to actually live. It was a solemn revelation to us how realistic forecasts could be affected by such high unaccounted provision risks, possibilities that shall surpass the inherent risks evaluated by experts. Evidently, nature opened our sight to the bigger picture, all that we kept taking for granted. The imposed break by the nature has allowed Earth to breathe and make man face the irony of being the metaphorical virus to the planet. This is undeniably the time when nature rung the much-needed admonishing bell to wake us all up and direct us to reflect and redress yet again, an attempt to make us act like the superior beings that God made us. Beings that were to nurture the nature, not exploit it.

It is about time we started acknowledging what we have, be content and move on to value and sustain it all while we build-on to make it greater. Here are a few thought on what needs to be done; 1. We need to surround ourselves with an empathetic attitude to value ourselves to begin with, moving

on to our families and to society by and large 2. We need to move on and appreciate the privilege of having relationships and families that really matter 3. We need to unknit the tangled thoughts about people and be accepting of everyone's point of view with diversity and difference 4. We need to rid ourselves of the pre-conceived notions, confirmation biases and self-satisfying concepts to build a newer, clearer vision and act with open-mindedness, inclusivity and empathy 5. We need to value time and weigh its ticking with every opportunity to be of advantage to others and be conscious of our moral responsibilities for the greater good, for the world 6. We need to appreciate the meticulous fabric of humanity that weaves us together, and collaborate to strengthen our bond beyond all borders - be them self-inhibiting, ecological or geographical 7. Just like we advocate

connectivity, creativity, communication and collaboration in education today, we need to practically adopt the 4Cs in our lives and be the living examples of educated human beings who serve and thrive on substantial purposes.

It is about time we rose above and beyond and spread positivity besides statistically depressing news of the pandemic. Let us work for the future, identical to what we always have been executing in selfless commitment to teaching and learning. Let

us join hands in solidarity with the purpose of being resourceful to all around us. Let us walk the marathon for a secure and healthier tomorrow. Let us sail the high tides of the prevalent challenge to rise stronger for our families, our society, and our world. Let us all flatten the curve of all that affects us negatively and escalate positivity, empathy, connectivity, gratitude, compassion, productivity, and, above all, humanity. It's time we must 'nurture' the best gift of 'nature' called 'life' itself, as we need to revisit and rewrite our social contract with our families, communities, society and humanity at large to build an informed, sustained and inclusive world for the better. ■

Courtesy: Daily Times

Effects of Covid-19 on the Global Economy

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019, the deadly disease has spread to more than 215 countries and territories across the world. By the end of the second week of April 2020, around 1.9 million people had been infected and more than 119,000 died due to the killer disease caused by Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). On 11 March 2020, WHO officially declared Covid-19 as a pandemic – the highest level of a health emergency.

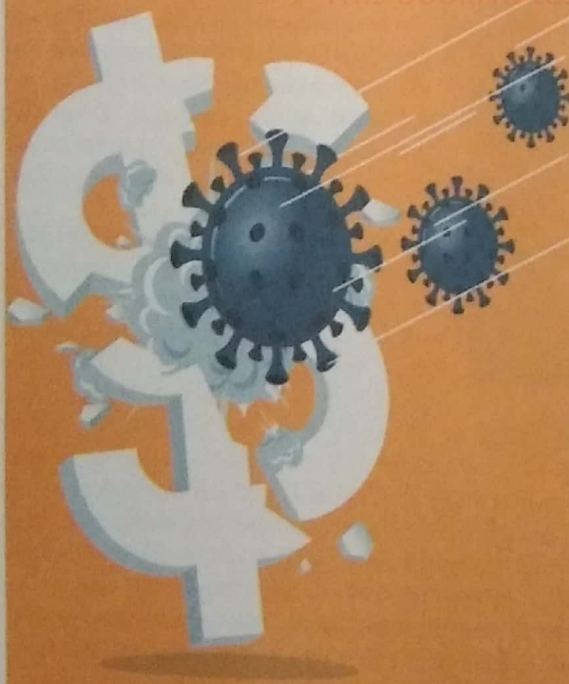


Athar Mansoor
Estimates so far predict that the ailment could cut down the global economic growth by 0.5% to 1.5% but the full impact of it may not be known until the effects peak. The adverse effects of the pandemic are vividly evident in a wide range of social and economic activities such as tourism, food, global value chains, financial markets and medical supplies, just to mention a few. The exponential spread of the disease in various parts of the world and without a clear understanding of when the effects may peak, it becomes extremely complex and challenging to accurately predict its economic impact. All forecasts must, therefore, be considered preliminary.

The effects of the virus have not peaked yet and so the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has estimated that the global economy may grow only by 1.5% in 2020. This reduction from an initially predicted 2.9% growth rate will have large-scale adverse impact on the entire world population. On 23 March 2020, the OECD Secretary General, Angel Gurría, stated, "The pandemic has set in motion a major economic crisis that will burden our societies for years to come." The historic drop in yield to below 1% of the US Treasury's 10-year security on 3 March 2020 is a clear indication of how the investors are moving out of stocks. By late March, investors were rapidly moving out of corporate and municipal bonds which are traditionally considered safe-haven investments, as firms and other financial institutions attempted to increase their cash holdings.

Between February and March 2020, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost about one-third of its value. The drop in equity prices has raised concerns that foreign investors might attempt to exploit the volatile situation by increasing their purchases of firms in sectors important to national security. The president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, has recently urged all EU member states to carefully screen foreign investments to minimize the opportunities of exploitation especially in areas such as medical research and critical infrastructure. Covid-19 is also badly affecting global politics as world leaders are cancelling international meetings and some nations reportedly are coming up with conspiracy theories that shift blame to other countries.

The economic situation at present is highly fluid. A highly uncertain situation is fuelling perceptions of risk and volatility in financial markets and corporate decision-making. In addition,

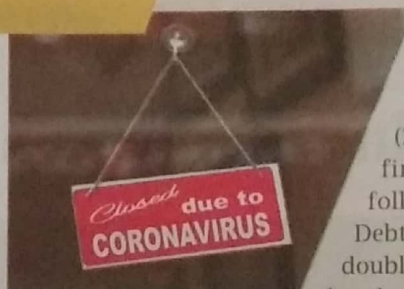
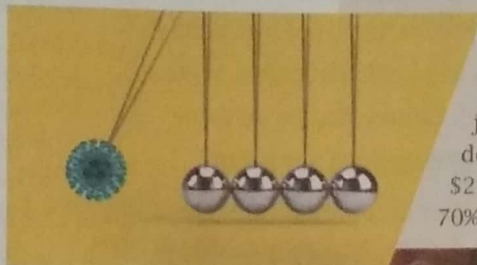


uncertainties concerning the global pandemic and the effectiveness of public policies intended to curtail its spread are increasing the market volatility. Before the outbreak of Covid-19, the global economy was struggling due to negative impact of growing trade protectionism, trade disputes between major trading nations, falling commodity and energy prices, and economic uncertainties in Europe such as Brexit. In this environment, Covid-19 could have a much bigger than anticipated impact. While the true economic effects will eventually become clearer, the response to the pandemic could have enduring impact on the way businesses organize their employees, global supply chains, and how states respond to a global health crisis.

The global economy is being affected by the pandemic through three trade channels: (1) directly through supply chains as diminishing economic activity is spread from intermediate goods producers to finished goods producers; (2) as a result of a drop overall in economic activity, which has decreased the demand for goods, including imports; and (3) through reduced trade with commodity exporters that supply producers, which, in turn, reduces their imports and negatively affects trade and economic activity of exporters.

The drop in economic activity, in China, has had international repercussions as firms in several parts of the world have experienced delays in supplies of intermediate and finished goods through supply chains. Concerns are mounting that the virus-related supply shock is creating more prolonged and wide-ranging demand shocks as reduced activity by consumers and businesses is leading to lower economic growth. In this environment, firms are holding cash, which affects market liquidity. As a policy response, central banks of different countries have lowered interest rates and expanded lending facilities to provide liquidity to financial markets and to firms to reduce the chances of insolvency.

If we compare the current situation with the financial crisis of 2008-09, we observe that so far households have not experienced the same kind of loss in wealth they saw during that period when the value of their primary accommodations dropped sharply. Losses in the value of several equity markets in the United States, Asia and Europe, however, could negatively affect household wealth. Heavy job losses could also result in defaults on mortgage payments, which could have a very bad impact on the market for mortgage-backed securities and on the availability of funds for mortgages.



On March 3, 2020, G-7 finance ministers and central bankers released a statement indicating they will use all appropriate policy tools for sustaining the economic growth. The finance ministers pledged fiscal support to ensure health systems can sustain efforts to fight the disease. Most central banks have lowered interest rates since then and taken measures to increase liquidity in their financial systems including lowering capital buffers and reserve requirements, creating temporary lending facilities for banks and businesses, and easing loan terms. Governments of various countries have also adopted fiscal measures to keep their economies buoyant. These measures include making payments directly to households, temporarily deferring tax payments, extending unemployment insurance, and increasing guarantees and loans to businesses.

For a region-wise economic impact of Covid-19, it has been estimated that among the countries highly dependent on trade, e.g. Germany, Canada, Mexico, Italy, Japan and South Korea, would be most negatively affected by the slowdown in economic activity associated with the virus.

Covid-19 could also trigger a wave of defaults around the world. In the third quarter of 2019, just before the outbreak of Covid-19, the global debt levels had reached record high of nearly \$253 trillion—about 320% of global GDP. About 70% of the global debt is held by rich countries and

about 30% is held by emerging markets. Globally, most of the debt is held by non-financial corporations (29%), governments (27%) and financial corporations (24%), followed by households (19%). Debt in emerging markets has nearly doubled since 2010, primarily driven by borrowing from state-owned

enterprises. Households are facing a big increase in unemployment, and in many developing countries, there is a huge decline in remittances. All of this will leave the households and corporations with fewer resources and they may default on their debts. Having said this, it can be concluded that the quickly evolving nature of the Covid-19 crisis has created several issues that make it challenging to estimate the full cost to global economic activity. However, the world is surely going to go into a deep recession and a wide range of negative social and economic effects for all of us. ■

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Fleeing people locked up in camps along the US-Mexico border or drowning in the Mediterranean Sea; trucks driving into crowds of people; mass shootings in schools; violent storms, floods and fires caused by climate change; seemingly never-ending wars in places like Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen or the Democratic Republic of the Congo; the spread of extremist fundamentalism: all these phenomena are what the Italian Marxist philosopher Antonio Gramsci called "morbid symptoms." They appear in situations where "the old is dying and the new cannot be born." Here, the "old" is the system of states associated with modern industry, mass production, mass media and dependence on fossil fuels. But, this system is out of step with today's interconnected and complex world that is defined by the revolution in information and communications

Since the end of World War II, humanity has seen few large-scale wars—and battlefield deaths—compared with the past 2 centuries. War scholars refer to our current era as the "long peace". On the other hand, today's warfare seems almost always ambiguous, murky, confusing, ongoing and politically complicated. It has become a combination of low-intensity (military) conflict and a fight over information via cyberspace. And, usually, this warfare does not involve much violence, certainly not compared to the wholesale slaughters of the 20th century. So, are we really getting along any better?

M. Bilal Butt
technology. In similar grand transitions of the past, war played a critical role in constructing and reconstructing the state apparatus. But the type of war through which this occurred has become too destructive to be fought. Instead, contemporary wars could be described as state 'un-building'. So, how is it possible to construct the kind of institutions that would enable us to lay the basis for the "new"?

The Changing Character of War

In this write-up, the terms "old" and "new" wars have been used to describe the difference between the wars of the modern period—from 17th to 20th centuries—on the one hand, and contemporary wars, on the other. Old wars include both interstate wars and classic civil wars between governments and rebels, where the rebels were organized, in effect, as a state in waiting. Indeed, the English Civil War of the 1640s

Peacemaking in an Era of New **WAR**



could be described as the first modern war, in which Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army offered a template for the future organization of the state.

Old wars, at least in theory, were contests of wills. Carl von Clausewitz, the iconic strategist of the modern period, defines war as "an act of

violence designed to compel our opponent to fulfil our will."

New wars, like those in Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo or Somalia, are better described as a social condition or even as a mutual enterprise in which numerous armed groups gain more from violence itself than from winning. They gain politically through the construction of extremist identity

politics based on hatred of the "other"—along the lines of ethnic sectarianism or religious fundamentalism. And they gain economically through loot, kidnapping, extortion and other criminalized activities that take place under the cover of war. In new wars, battles between armed groups are rather rare and most violence is directed against civilians. These wars are difficult to end in time or space; they tend to persist and spread rather to extremes.

Old wars were an essential element of state-building. "War made the state and the state made war," said Charles Tilly. Wars were the ways in which first monarchs and later republican governments established order and built a state apparatus. Modern wars centralized power, mobilized the population and encouraged economic self-sufficiency. To raise money for wars, governments increased and improved the efficiency of taxation, increased borrowing, regularized banking and

established central banks. In Western countries, this involved an implicit bargain, in which the population gained increased rights in return for paying taxes and

fighting in wars. In Eastern Europe and Asia, by and large, funds for fighting wars were extracted through increased repression rather than through a bargaining process, so the

repressive capacity of the state was also developed. Wars also produced technological and organizational innovations that contributed to the transformation of both the state apparatus and the broader socioeconomic context. Wars, moreover, opened up new forms of communication and social organizations; thus, newspapers were first published in the English Civil

War, while many new social

movements, such as humanitarian groups or

women's groups, gained traction in times of war.

Contemporary wars are almost exactly the opposite. They disassemble the state; participation is low and they are decentralized and globalized. They involve the

disintegration of federations, such as the former Yugoslavia or the Soviet Union. They construct new, unstable, inward-looking sub-state entities like the Republika Srpska in Bosnia, South Sudan or the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics in eastern Ukraine. Taxation is low and finance comes from war-related activities. State services such as health, education, police or courts are decimated. They produce fragmented and often transnational extremist political identities. They lead to waves of forced migration. They also give birth to new transnational assemblages of security and humanitarianism formed to tackle their problems; that is to say, external interventions by the United Nations and other multilateral institutions and by a whole array of international NGOs and private contractors.



"Peace is when the business interests of the West are not endangered, even if tens of millions of non-white human beings would vanish in the process. Peace is when the West can, unopposed, control the world, politically, economically, ideologically and 'culturally'. "War" is when there is rebellion. War is when the people of plundered countries say "No!". War is when they suddenly refuse to be raped, robbed, indoctrinated and murdered. When such a scenario takes place, the West's immediate reaction 'to restore peace' is to overthrow the government in the country which is trying to take care of its people. To bomb schools and hospitals, to destroy supply of freshwater and electricity and to throw millions into total misery and agony."

—Andre Vltchek

Rethinking the Meaning of Peace

Philosophers and political thinkers began to develop

schemes for perpetual peace during the Enlightenment era. This period saw the rise of secular intellectuals associated with an enlarged merchant or capitalist class—consisting of growing numbers of teachers, doctors, writers or lawyers—that developed alongside the traditionally dominant warrior nobility and clergy.

Most of these schemes were based on the assumption that war was between states, and they proposed to end war through proposals for some form of league or federation of nations based on a permanent peace treaty. Immanuel Kant, whose pamphlet "Perpetual Peace" is probably the best-known example of these suggestions, created a scheme that involved a permanent peace treaty, republican constitutions (with checks and balances), and the idea that cosmopolitan rights (human rights, as understood now) need only to be confined to the right of hospitality, that is to say, treating strangers appropriately. Peace movements developed throughout the nineteenth century with regular pan-European congresses that put forward peace schemes designed to end conflict between nations, aimed at establishing instruments of international arbitration such as the court established at the Peace Palace in The Hague. It was this version of peace that was championed by Andrew Carnegie. This idea of peace, as synonymous with "peace between nations," became the dominant conception of peace up to 1989. The Soviet Union espoused this understanding of peace as peace from above, negotiated among states and associated with non-interference in internal affairs. This was reflected in peace research databases of war established during the Cold War period, such as the Uppsala Conflict Data Program that defined war as interstate or intrastate and involving a certain number of battle deaths. Wars that involved networks of state and non-state actors that were both global and local and where most violence was directed against civilians were simply not captured by the data.

For these old-fashioned advocates of peace, the main method of peacemaking was top-down diplomacy among states. Yet in new war contexts, this understanding of peace has turned out to be counter-productive. The various armed groups are not states in waiting; rather, they

represent a combination of gangsterism and political extremism. Since the end of the Cold War, there have been literally hundreds of such agreements negotiated by international agencies, mainly the United Nations but also the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the African Union. Only about half can be said to have succeeded in reducing violence. Because violence is directed against civilians, it is rather easy to halt it between the groups or to separate the warring parties. These agreements, basically, freeze the social condition of a new war.

While these agreements have a legalistic veneer on the model of peace treaties in the past, they are better described as mafia truces. As armed groups multiply, it

becomes ever harder to bring them together,

except through promises of positions and money. Indeed, there are cases where peace groups have been formed in order to participate in peace talks. If peace talks do succeed in reaching agreement, the main effect is to legitimize the participants, thereby entrenching the toxic combination of political extremism, social and economic predation, and the disassembled state.

Bosnia-Herzegovina is often touted as the model for this type of agreement. The Dayton Agreement is hailed as a success story for ending three years of war. Yet this Agreement also divided Bosnia into three entities ruled by ethnic warlords. Despite a large international military presence and very high levels of funding—more money per

head than the Marshall Plan delivered to Western Europe after the Second World War—Bosnia remains a dysfunctional society, where the threat of renewed war is ever present.

An alternative conception of peace requires a very different set of assumptions in which peace is imagined not as the absence of war between states, but as a social condition experienced in societies governed by rights-based law. The world of states was characterized by what international relations scholars call the "great divide" between "outside" relations of power based on war and diplomacy and "inside" relations based on politics and the rule of law. Instead of peace between states, the new peace is about the spread of the "inside" outward. It is constructed on the



basis of the globalization of politics and law. Peace could be described as a civic social condition that can be counterposed against the social condition of a new war that crisscrosses national boundaries. Peace can only be achieved by reversing or countering the new war social condition. That is a much more complex undertaking than merely top-down peace talks. It requires a simultaneous, multilevel combination of building legitimate institutions, countering sectarian and fundamentalist narratives, investing in value-adding economic activities, establishing the rule of law, and creating effective justice mechanisms. This approach does not replace peace talks.

But peace talks aimed at reversing the social condition of new wars would be constructed very differently from peace talks aimed at reaching agreement among the warring parties.

The last three decades have been a learning process. The transnational security assemblages formed in the wake of top-down peace agreements to deal with post-conflict situations have grown in size and scope. There is a much greater understanding of the multidimensional requirements that are needed to address the new war social condition. But the efforts of many dedicated international officers and volunteers are often subverted by the gap between the actual situation on the ground and the conceptions of how to achieve peace at the level of high politics, which means, by and large, the level of old-fashioned states with built-in old-fashioned ideas of war.

Giving Birth to the New?

New wars are an expression of the way in which states have become increasingly dysfunctional in contemporary society. The morbid symptoms to be observed worldwide are the symptoms that can be observed in new war contexts. They include the neoliberal hollowing out of states and the rise of crony capitalism or what Alex de Waal calls the "political marketplace," where money replaces public deliberation as the currency of power. They also

include the rise of extremist populist ideologies directed against women and minorities and fomented through new digital methods of spreading lies and propaganda. States no longer have the capacity to address the everyday problems that individuals face because their capacities are hollowed out by spending cuts and contracting out, because problems like climate change are bigger than the state, and because of embedded "old war" ways of thinking and doing.

Even in the so-called advanced countries, hate crimes, terrorist attacks and mass shootings are already rising. A possible, indeed probable, scenario is a global era of chronic new warfare. This does not mean increased war

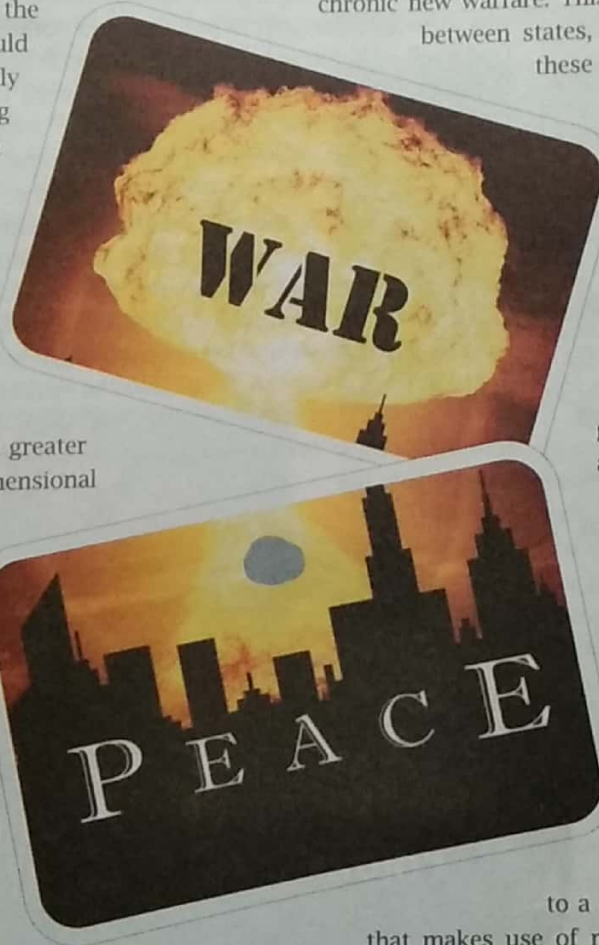
between states, but a new dark age where all these morbid symptoms of societal breakdown contribute to and are compounded by climate change.

If we conceive of the new peace as the spread of the inside outward, it should be noted that there are different models of the inside, some of them characterized by repression and surveillance. The growing weight of China in global affairs, for example, may betoken a model of world order based on extensive global surveillance and the imposition of stability from above. Rather, a new conception of peace should be based on an inside that is characterized by a rights-based rule of law.

This kind of peace would need to express a broad social narrative about how to adapt political institutions

to a different development paradigm

that makes use of new digital technologies to save resources and transform lifestyles in a way that is just in both social and climate terms and addresses all levels of governance. Earlier peace proposals for federations or leagues of nations need to be replaced by new models of global governance in which states are no longer the pivotal element of the global system. Local and regional levels need to be empowered to address local and regional complexities. And regional and global political institutions need to be more than intergovernmental institutions, able to act politically and accountable to citizens. ■



Covid-19, the respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus, has become as universal as something can ever be. It currently affects almost all countries as well as numerous ships and vessels in open seas. Not only has the virus reached every part of the world, it has played havoc with flow of life everywhere, without any exception. It has become one of the severest global crises the world has faced in recent times.

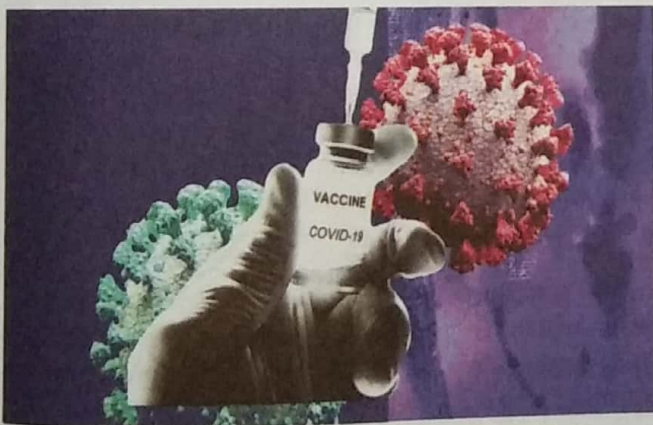
Since it is a new virus and finding a vaccine and/or efficacious medication will take time, the only remedy at this point is prevention. Countries have resorted to lockdowns and taking measures to ensure social distancing among people so that spread of the virus can be curtailed. Closure of educational institutions, public offices and industries and ban on public transport are all damage-control measures. As the world scrambles to pass through this pandemic with as little further harm as possible, the question how we reached this juncture begs an answer more than ever before. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic has been severely damaging economic activities across the world and serious socioeconomic fallouts cannot be ruled out in the weeks and months to come. Technological advancements in all fields and unimagined levels of automation aided by artificial intelligence had created an image of the modern world as if it was invincible. Majority of people could not even think that the entire world will find itself so helpless against something. People around the world found it hard to believe, therefore, when the virus started to spread, shutting down life was slated to be the only defence against it. In this age of social media, polarized opinions started making rounds with some unearthing conspiracy theories, some chipping in with premonitions of end of the world, and others sticking to religious notions of sins and resultant torments. Whatever the reason, it is only logical to analyze humanity's failure in tackling the pandemic better than it has. There are genuine questions as to continued lack of focus and investment in the health sector over time, which left the humanity vulnerable to this pandemic to a large extent. In other words, the virus caught humans off-guard. There is an evolving consensus that the world on the whole has focused too less attention and funding on health. It is based on hard reality that all countries faced shortage of testing kits, personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves for the general public, and face shields and body suits for healthcare providers, general as well as intensive care beds and lifesaving machinery such



HAS THE WORLD FAILED IN PRIORITIZING HEALTH?

as ventilators. This want of machinery and equipment has been sufficiently highlighted but what hasn't been spotlighted enough is the want of healthcare providers in sufficient numbers. Many countries had to fast-track final-year medical students into fully qualified doctors. Similar measures were also taken for nurses and paramedics.

One can argue that healthcare systems around the world were inadequately staffed and insufficiently equipped. What to talk of developing countries, even the developed countries have failed miserably on this front. The world has seen Europe and the United States, the most developed and economically prosperous regions by far, show unforgiving levels of readiness and lack of medical supplies, so much so that even healthcare professionals didn't have personal protective equipments many days into the pandemic. As of writing of these lines, many states in the USA are competing against one another for procurement of these crucial supplies. In Europe, all countries but Finland had dismantled the 'critical healthcare stock' that was established during World War II to cater for medical emergencies en masse. In the US, the Trump administration disbanded "National Security Council's Directorate for Global Health Security and Bio-



Defense" in the White House in 2018. The Directorate was set up to be the "smoke alarm" and get ahead of emergencies and sound a warning at the earliest sign of fire.

Nonetheless, would it be feasible to overstock medical supplies and erect significantly more than needed health infrastructure in anticipation of a pandemic? If we keep as many ventilators in routine as are needed in these times, they won't be in use and would rust anyway. In usual circumstances, most, if not all, countries would have sufficient health infrastructure. How do we know how often such a thing is going to hit? These are logical counterarguments that carry weight. But that's not the argument, in the first place. Argument is to avoid getting to this stage where all these medical supplies and health

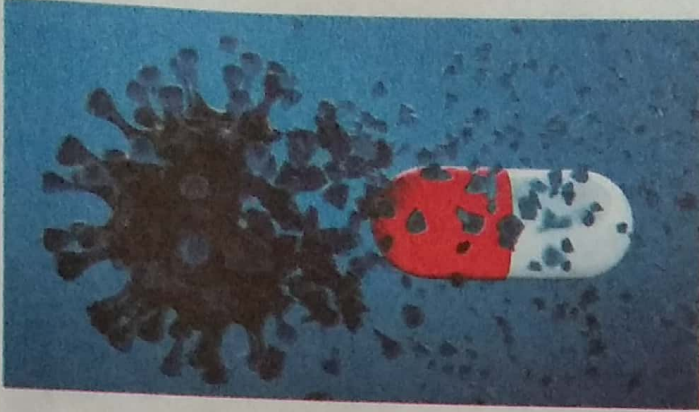
infrastructure is urgently needed. The argument is to improve world's ability to have credible smoke alarms in place and be ahead of the emergencies, as much as possible. It is about nipping the evil in the bud. Let us, for a moment, think of ways to identify the threat as early and as best as possible. What about more technology and innovation into identifying new viruses, studying them, locating them and doing reverse engineering to find cure/vaccine? What about the fact that humans have developed telescopes that can look farther than our galaxy but not microscopes that can easily identify a new virus from known viruses? Why is it that we still have to run human trials for 12-18 months to be sure if a vaccine will work instead of being able to run credible



simulations through supercomputers to get same results in no time and without any human trials? How come the technology has every inch on the earth covered by not one but multiple mapping companies but no such innovation on threats to human health? Why can't the world have groundbreaking technology to detect new viruses when it has satellites orbiting the earth thousands of miles above that can detect mineral deposits underneath the earth? How difficult should it be to invent advanced optical equipment to scan presence of virus in an environment—building, room, aeroplane, ship, on a surface—in the presence of sophisticated gear that can scan heat, retina, waves, radiation and what not from considerable distances? Despite knowing the strain of coronaviruses for the last many years, why the world on the whole struggled to roll out speedy testing kits for the novel coronavirus? We see life-changing innovations in a host of fields at unprecedented speeds but can we recall one such innovation in the health sector? Among a plethora of smartphone apps and computer applications, how many, if at all, are on human health? Advancements in weather-forecasting technology have helped save lives around the world, notwithstanding the differences between the two, similar strides can, and should, be made in early detection technologies against viruses and similar dangers to human health.

There is no denying the fact that a large number of

companies, universities, research organizations, NGOs and governments around the world are, and have been, working in health sector, and their appreciable work has yielded positive results too. The question is, is that enough? Is that something that can help face out of the ordinary challenges such as Covid-19? Is that enough to establish health as one of the priority areas? From what



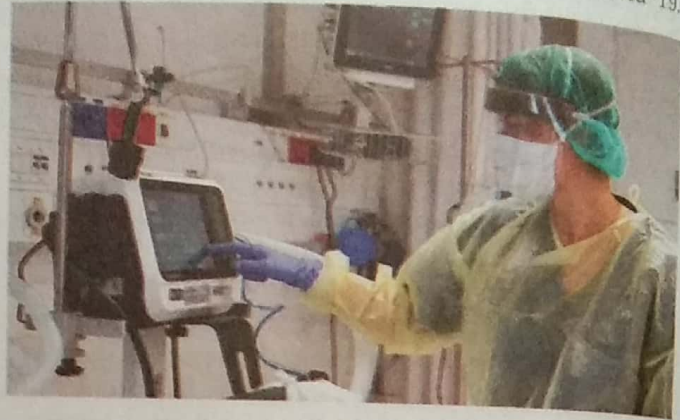
the experience with Covid-19 has so far shown, the answer is a big NO. The situation points to only one grim reality: humans have not prioritized their own health. Another dark side of this issue is pervasiveness of injustice and unequal distribution of resources in the health sector as well. A pandemic affects public at large; therefore, we are observing novel coronavirus infections among the high-income segments of society as well; however, in the normal circumstances healthcare infrastructure is designed such that it caters well to the higher-income strata and leaves the lower-income strata in the lurch.

A vast majority of populations in low-income countries can neither access nor afford quality healthcare facilities. And then, the elite hardly ever depend on healthcare facilities of their countries; most fly out to developed countries for treatments. Hence, not investing enough in health further aggravates the socioeconomic segregation



and puts the impoverished at higher risk of contracting illnesses, and dying of those. Data of Covid-19 also points to this bitter fact. Although the virus is not differentiating

in who it infects, healthcare seems to be doing it. Almost all the VIPs who got infected have recovered. Among 120,000 deaths, overwhelming majority is of people from lower-income strata. It's just not a coincidence. A Chicago Tribune report dated 7th April 2020 revealed that in Chicago area, the African-Americans had a death rate six times higher than that of the Caucasians from Covid-19.



Statistics from other countries are also telling. Evolution is all about learning from mistakes and converting threats into opportunities. The Covid-19 pandemic shall serve as a wake-up call to the world; a call to prioritize health. Considerable financial and technological investments need to be made in health sector so as to have most modern equipment in place for early detection, study and control of new viruses on the one hand, and adequate healthcare infrastructure ready to meet any unforeseen challenges aptly, on the other. Facilities should be expanded to the extent where healthcare becomes universally and easily accessible to every single human being irrespective of his/her income level.

Significant improvements and investments also need to be made in devising global standard operating procedures (SOPs) and equipment/procedures that, by providing safe ways of going out and transacting business as usual, can ensure smooth flow of life even during the pandemics. All these investments, focus and prioritization would propel humanity to the level where it is not caught off guard by a pandemic in future. It is established now that the current pandemic is going to usher the world into a recession and all economies will struggle to get back to normal. One wonders, had billions been spent on health in the past, trillions would not have to be spent now on rescue packages. Not to mention the lives that could have been saved and economic crises billions around the world would be facing in months and years to come. Against this background, heavy investment in health to evade similar situations in future is very much worth it. ■

The writer is a Fulbright alumnus, presently serving as Deputy Secretary in the Federal Government.

The Future of the



Can the bloc survive in a de-globalized world?

Aftab Abbasi

Leaders of the European Union have been, of late, insisting that the 27-nation bloc needed to change. For instance, at the end of a frustrating six-hour teleconference with EU leaders at the end of March 2020, French president Emmanuel Macron warned that the Covid-19 pandemic was challenging "the survival of the European project." These dramatic words, uttered to spur the European Union and its member states into action, revealed both the bloc's fragility and its "pre-existing conditions," which make it more susceptible to grave economic and political blowback from Covid-19. The European Union that emerges from this war will not be the same as it is today. With growing anti-globalization sentiment, xenophobia and nativism, European states are finding it increasingly difficult to form majority governments after inconclusive elections. Established political parties could no longer keep new and more extreme voices

An unprecedented global event is unfolding before our very eyes. After more than three decades of working to reach globalization, we have gone wholly de-globalized. Under the veil of the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, countries shut down, one after another, their sky, sea and land borders. It means that after the coronavirus pandemic, the world is likely to be a very different place. Like all else, the global political-economic order will be profoundly altered by the pandemic. The spread of the pandemic has closed borders across Europe and challenged people's freedom of movement and the free movement of goods. Those are the very foundations of the European Union, and some argue the bloc could be facing an existential crisis as it has kicked off an accelerated retreat from globalization.

outside of governments as fragile, multiparty or minority governments became common place. The EU now faces a fundamental strategic dilemma. More than any ordinary nation-state, the EU is as pure a creature of multilateral globalization as exists in the world. It is most comfortable when the outside world mirrors its traditional internal principles of organization: free economic exchange and mutually beneficial cooperation. When globalization really began to take off in the 1990s, the EU was ready to help shape it. It understood how to knock down barriers to market competition. The founding director-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Peter Sutherland, had been Europe's competition commissioner at the height of the single-market program. In some ways, the EU was more comfortable with globalization than the United States was. After all, it had been founded on the belief that open commerce and shared institutions were a better guarantee of peace than great-power manoeuvrings.

Like the United States, the EU resisted multilateralism in areas of trade that might undermine internal political bargains or sensitive external relationships. Europe was slow to abandon restrictions on textile imports. It was notoriously opposed to free trade in bananas, which might damage its ties to former European colonies. Nonetheless, it grudgingly opened up.

The EU gradually discovered that it could turn its embrace of globalization into a strategy of influence. It could use the internal market rules and standards to shape the rules and standards of a globalized world. The EU's combination of a large market and a common standard setting system gave it unique leverage in many sectors. While the United States had a big market too, its internal regulations and standards were often weak or created by squabbling private organizations. The European Commission was a sophisticated and internationally-oriented regulator, with decades of experience in making its regulations work across different countries. Often, it was able not only to impose its rules and standards on multinational firms that wanted to sell to Europe but to get them to apply these rules and standards outside Europe too. This subtle form of influence, often called the "Brussels effect," reshaped global markets.

In short, the EU seemed well-adapted to a globalized world. The stronger the EU became, the easier it was to influence world markets in Europe's direction. The relationship worked the other way too: The ideas of globalization helped EU officials push for further internal reforms. It was easier to push member states to accept more European integration in a world where everyone believed in open trade and free movement. Together, these created a feedback loop between European integration and global markets.

Now that feedback loop is breaking down. Just as the EU began to globalize before most other countries, it started encountering problems earlier too. International market integration necessarily limited national democracy. When EU leaders tried to introduce a new constitution in 2005, French and Dutch voters rejected it. A somewhat less ambitious follow-up document, the Treaty of Lisbon, was rejected by Irish voters in 2008 (though it passed when they were asked to vote again in 2009). The 2008 global financial crisis demonstrated the problems of easy financial flows across borders. The EU was especially weak in financial regulation, meaning banks could relocate their most risky and speculative lending to lax jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom and Ireland without difficulty. And as the Greek debt crisis mounted, power politics—and the self-interest of

Germany—reemerged within Europe. German taxpayers were unwilling to support further integration if it meant they had to pay the bill.

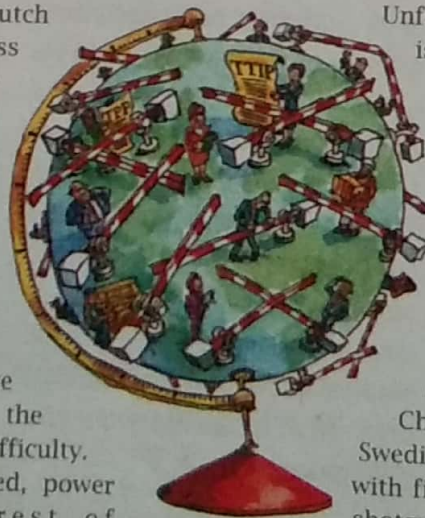
The Brussels effect turned out to have limitations as well. The EU was able to spread its privacy rules worldwide, but it was too late to help European firms. Europe's information economy had already been eaten up by Google, Facebook, Amazon, and other big technology firms. These are not just companies that can be tamed



through ordinary antitrust regulation: They aspire to become economies in their own right. Even before 2016, it was clear that the EU's approach to globalization needed to be updated to deal with market actors that were themselves effectively evolving into markets.

Now Europe is facing the new challenges of a de-globalizing world. The Trump administration wants to tear apart the existing globalized economy and replace it with an "America First" approach to trade. It scorns multilateralism in favour of threats and one-sided bargains. It fears China as an adversary and is trying to cut it out of global technology supply chains. When the Trump administration decided to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal, it threatened to punish allies that were impertinent enough to uphold a treaty that the United States itself negotiated. In fine, the United States is weaponizing the trade and financial networks that wove globalization together and turning them into tools of coercion.

Unfortunately for Europe, the United States isn't the only problem. China is not as powerful as the United States but is just as ruthless in exploiting what economic leverage it has. For example, it has threatened to retaliate against German car manufacturers if Germany gives in to US pressure to block the Chinese telecommunications firm Huawei. When a Swedish writers' organization gave a prize to a dissident Chinese publisher late last year, China's ambassador to Sweden said on Swedish public radio: "We treat our friends with fine wine, but for our enemies we've got shotguns," warning of trade restrictions.



Globalization is unravelling as the United States and China face off against each other. It will not unravel completely: The world's economies are too entangled to be easily separated from each other. But the way that the global economy works is now at odds with the way that Europe itself does business. De-globalization has especially imperiled the multilateral institutions governing trade. The WTO Appellate Body, which serves as a final court of appeal for trade decisions, cannot do its work because the United States is vetoing new appointments to it. The EU is trying to keep the appellate system on life support through independent arbitration. The Trump administration's invocation of a national security exception to justify its tariffs on steel and aluminum may be an even greater threat to the multilateral trade regime that Europe favours. Global free trade will not survive if states can invoke national security more or less on a whim, but the current US administration may provoke an even bigger crisis if the WTO rules against it. Europe now finds itself caught between two unattractive

one of the core nodes in the global financial network. Building up clout would require the EU to figure out practical ways to bring London back into its orbit. Alternatively, Europe can double down on protecting the existing multilateral system, working with other states such as Japan and Canada to build an "alliance for multilateralism." The problem is that the two other great economic powers are taking just the opposite course. Even if the Trump administration is replaced by a Democratic leadership, the days of easy multilateralism will never return. Democrats, too, are hawkish about China, and presidential candidates like Bernie Sanders (Mr Sanders has abandoned the race for Democrat nomination in favour of Joe Biden) are sceptical about the old free trade nostrums.

Europe needs more than knee-jerk multilateralism or geopolitical cunning if it is to prosper. Naive multilateralism would lead to the EU getting squashed. Geopolitical cunning on its own would suggest that the EU should adopt Trumpism (or Xi Jinping-ism) with



alternatives. It can accept de-globalization and embrace geopolitics, pushing to protect its own businesses as the United States and China protect theirs. Already, there are moves within Europe in this direction: Politicians are talking about watering down antitrust regulations and building and promoting European businesses. However, this would mean giving up on the multilateral institutions that Europe has relied on and hoping that soft power can be transformed into hard bargaining strength. That may be possible, but it will require luck, time and profound internal transformation.

For example, the EU is unhappy with how the United States has used the dominance of the dollar to bully European officials and firms. If it wants to build the euro as a credible alternative, it will have to create a real system of common banking regulation and shared fiscal capacities, as well as offer stability to non-European currencies in times of economic crisis, just as the United States has. Even this might be insufficient. Europe has just lost its greatest geopolitical asset: the city of London, which is

European characteristics, championing national firms at home while aggressively pressing its interests abroad. This is a recipe for failure. Europe's external influence is based on patience and persuasion rather than brute force; it would wither if it became a crude proxy for self-interest. Without a shared commitment to problem-solving, Europe's internal market would degenerate into a sordid squabble among member states, each favouring its own politically connected firms. Even worse, the political union might disintegrate, as member states absorbed the lesson that national interest trumps all. The EU can manage some temporary national ruthlessness, of the kind exhibited in the Greek debt crisis, or the decision of some member states to close their borders to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. But even this is damaging, and it would undermine the EU if it continued indefinitely. What Europe needs is a new understanding of its place in the world to connect its internal and external environments. EU experts used to describe the "bicycle theory" of European integration, claiming that, like a bicycle,

European integration must keep on moving or it will fall over. In its golden age, globalization acted as Europe's bicycle chain connecting the gear of its inner order and the gear of its outside environment, propelling the whole system forward. Now it needs a new strategy and a new bike chain.

It is a mistake to think of de-globalization as a universal withdrawal of nation-states from the world economy. It is altogether more complex. The push toward economic decoupling goes together with new needs for global engagement. The challenge of climate change will require extensive global cooperation. Under the digital platform economy, algorithms designed by market actors inevitably allow global information flows to impinge on national-level democracy. (New forms of machine learning, for example, can lump users of digital services into self-perpetuating disadvantaged categories such that a person's online habits might make it nearly impossible for them to find a job or to get a loan on reasonable terms.)

Both of these challenges provide new ways to connect Europe's inside and outside. If Europe is to tackle them, it will need to move to an unparalleled level of internal integration, where it thinks about internal market rules—right from the beginning—as external means of projecting European interests and values. Responding to climate change will require large-scale regulation and coordinated investment. Properly regulating information platforms will mean a fundamental shift in how the EU thinks about market power so that it incorporates an understanding of how the accumulation of data creates its own forms of influence.

Yet integration on its own will be insufficient: Both are global problems. Europe's challenge, then, is to figure out how climate globalization and information globalization can become a new bicycle chain, using the smaller gear of European integration to propel change in the global economy and the larger gear of the global economy to power change within Europe.

Europe is taking initial steps in this direction. The new proposals to price carbon emissions into border taxes provide one example of how this can be done, creating a virtuous cycle between Europe's own efforts to reduce carbon emissions and those of other world producers, which will either have to match these efforts or pay a surtax when selling to the European market. In contrast to traditional tariffs, the ideal outcome of this border tax is that no one will have to pay it because the hope is that

everyone will move to more carbon-efficient forms of production. Even better would be if Europe's competitors introduced carbon taxes and carbon regulation too, making it easier to eventually build a global institutional infrastructure.

Antitrust regulation, too, is changing. Sutherland's distant successor as EU competition commissioner,



Margrethe Vestager, is pioneering a new approach to global enforcement. Privacy regulation, citizen protection and traditional antitrust regulation are no longer seen as separate priorities but as different aspects of a single

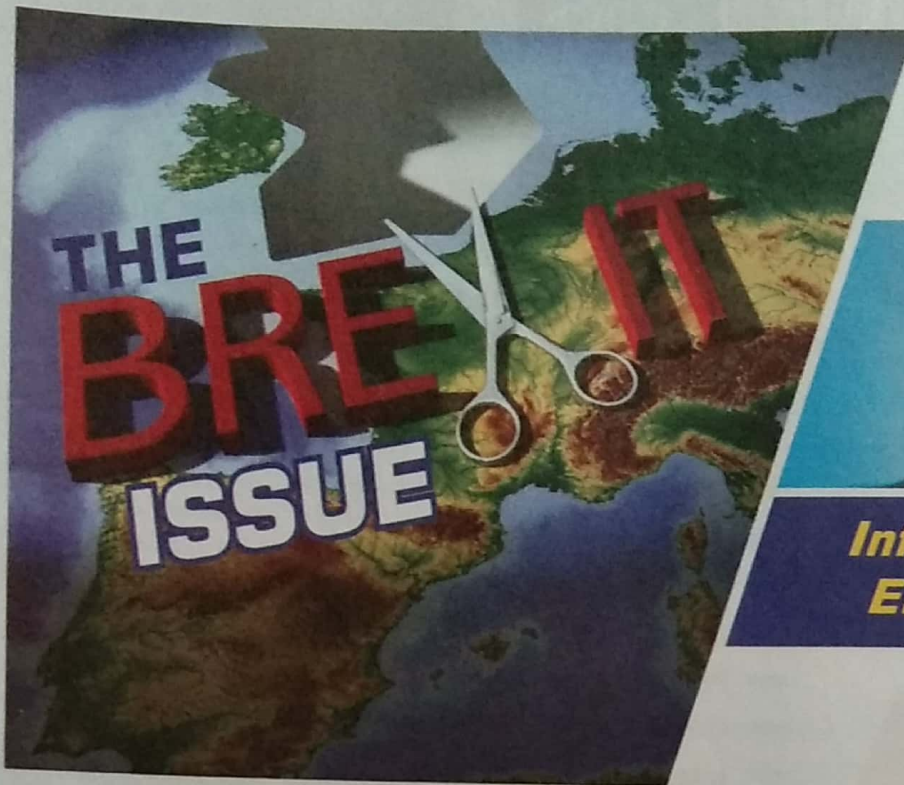
problem: reducing inequities of power within the market to prevent abuses. Again, this promises to help create a mutually-reinforcing relationship between European and global rules—although here the challenge is far greater, since what European and other democracies value may be seen by countries such as China as undermining their domestic system of rule. The EU will have a hard time figuring out creative rules to tame big tech companies, but if it succeeds, it can use the Brussels effect to spread these values to other jurisdictions.

None of this will be easy in a world where the United States and China weaponize their economic clout. Yet

it is necessary. Europe's apparent dilemma between geopolitics and multilateralism reflects a much deeper problem. De-globalization has broken the relationship between Europe's way of organizing itself and Europe's way of acting in the world. Rebuilding that relationship will require Europe to discover new ways to couple the engine of integration to the engine of globalization so that strategy and multilateralism point again in the same direction. ■

The writer is a member of staff.





Influence of religion on English nationalism

The genesis of national consciousness for Britain dates back to the 16th century when English nationalism started growing. The awakening of English national consciousness came with Henry VIII, who is accepted as the founder of the modern English nation in 1533. English nationalism was seeded when King Henry VIII declared England an empire after breaking with Rome, a move that caused a revolution in English religion, and also sparked the English Reformation.

Zafrullah Saroya

The Henry VIII period laid the foundations of the growth of modern English nationalism. A growing consciousness of Englishness with the background of historical, social and religious support crystallized as a new attitude of the English nation. This new formation of consciousness brought a new attitude of superiority to the English people. Additionally, one of the important factors in this new formation is that Calvinists expressed themselves as of the identification of the English people with the Israel of the Old Testament.

Another very important factor in English nationalism is the Puritans, who occupied the central position in the character of English nationalism, during the birth of the Empire of England. English nationalism has become deeply intertwined with the religious nationalism that was experienced by English people as a revival of the Old Testament. It became an indelible part of the minds and hearts of both English people and English leaders with the idea of English superiority. English nationalism, in short, has intertwined with religion in England, and imperial politics embraced this nationalism for centuries. Modern English nationalism is one of the most important factors in the shaping of relations with European Union states.

Role in the divorce process

English nationalism was born with the idea of the "chosen people" in history. In modern politics, the UK has opened a Pandora's box by leaving the European Union with Brexit. The perception among EU countries about the primary motive for England to decide to put an end to its EU membership was largely English nationalism.

Since 1975, British leaders have constantly reiterated the need to reclaim England's (the United Kingdom's) sovereignty from the EU. Brexit, therefore, had an element of déjà vu about it. Anyway, after a 45-year tumultuous journey with the EU, England finally unleashed its nationalism with Brexit.

British leaders paved the way with euroscepticism initially in 1975, and then

Margaret Thatcher, a spiritual mother of euroscepticism, increased the inspiration for euroscepticism, especially with her Bruges speech in 1988, which played a crucial role in setting Britain on the trajectory toward Brexit. Modern British leaders have always shaped public opinion with the doctrine of nationalism. In this context, to better understand the link between English nationalism and the role of its leaders, a saying of Frederick the Great of the Kingdom of Prussia (1740–1786) suffices: "A king is the first servant of the state." Therefore, historically, euroscepticism and Brexit go hand-in-hand.

'Take back control'

The pro-Brexiters' famous motto was "take back control." This rhetoric built national unity for a nationalist movement concerning the matter of leaving the EU. The driving force behind Brexit was dominantly British nationalism.

Where does this motivation of English nationalism come from? English nationalism has a centuries-long past that bases itself on imperial nostalgia, wars, racism and xenophobia to create a national identity.

For example, during the EU referendum campaign, many British leaders made negative remarks about "Turkey fears."

In this regard, Turkey's accession to EU membership was presented by British politicians as a threat about an "immigration flow" from Turkey to England. Clearly, this unrealistic and deliberate claim was about persuading the British public to vote in favour of Brexit. This is a British prejudice against Turkey and also foreigners in general.

The late British historian Elie Kedourie explained that nationalism introduces new principles for a new style of politics in which the expression of will override treaties. Politics is here described as a fight for principles that present compromise as treason.

A tone of exasperated intransigence became common between rivals and opponents. According to Kedourie, there is something terrible in the sacred love of the fatherland; it is so exclusive as to sacrifice everything to the public interest, without pity, without fear, without respect for humanity. What produces the general good is always terrible. After Brexit, the notion of nationalism has spread among states. Thus, the nationalist rhetoric may gain momentum and create domino effect among EU member states by further destabilizing the bloc. In this context, Brexit has strengthened anti-immigration and sentiment throughout the EU. For instance, in France and Germany, racism and xenophobia have been spreading more and more every day.

There have been frequent attacks on Muslims and mosques in EU countries. Shockingly, EU states have been slow to take action against those who are responsible for attacks on immigrants.

Indeed, the EU is based on the rule of law, which guarantees fundamental rights and values for individuals, including democracy.

On the contrary, this may be a "rule of law" crisis within the principles of the EU constitution. Therefore, the EU's most important value, the rule of law, should be strengthened.

Identity leads the change

Relations among states based on national identities have changed more radically than at any time over the past century. People feel an attachment to their communities based on their shared characteristics, such as religion, language and race, and they create a community around these.

Politicians are good at seeing this strength of nationalism and religion and they then lead communities by selling them nationalism as a sense of communal solidarity.

Politicians touch the feelings and needs of the community with nationalism as the best means. They take advantage of the fact that the power of the people is the most powerful force in the world. Brexit has these elements in its roots. This irresistible motivation is going to destabilize the geopolitics of the EU. This can be seen in the unprecedented support populist parties in the EU have been gaining by using nationalism as a motivator over the past decade.

English nationalism and the tradition of "English superiority" was historically grounded both for the English people and their leaders in religious enthusiasm. English nationalism has been fostered historically by its leaders, and as its consequence, English nationalism has formed the core of Britain's domestic and foreign policy. In this context, the global manifestations of English nationalism have always been brutal, as seen in colonization, exploitation and wars, primarily during English imperialism for the sake of trade and capitalism. English nationalism is a threat not only to the EU but also to the international system and the good of humankind. The national interests of the UK may cause the spread of racism, nationalism, violence and wars around the world. In the event of the rise of nationalism, nations may even kill each other in a nationalistic world. ■

The author is an advocate Lahore High Court



Growing Xenophobia Amid Covid-19

Abdul Rasool Syed

In the weeks since the virus spread around the world, multiple accounts of discrimination against Chinese nationals have been witnessed around the world. Although discrimination against China and the Chinese people is not new, the varied ways it has manifested during the coronavirus crisis reveal the increasingly complex relationship the world has with China right now. Headlines such as 'Yellow peril', 'Chinese virus pandemonium' and 'China kids stay home' have appeared in French and Australian newspapers. With news that the virus originated from a wet market that sold wildlife, and possibly mutated from a virus carried by bats, the usual jokes about Chinese people eating anything that moves have been trotted out. In the instant write-up, the author has discussed this despicable phenomenon.



Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, a concomitant pandemic named as xenophobia has also engulfed the whole world. As per reported incidents so far, xenophobia, more specifically Sinophobia, is surging at an exponential rate across the globe. Stigmatization of Chinese people in the wake of outbreak of coronavirus has become new normal. People now look at Chinese with disdain and contempt for they consider them solely responsible for all the physical and mental afflictions that they are undergoing nowadays due to outbreak of Covid-19 which first appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan. Moreover, this discrimination and antipathy is not restricted only to the Chinese people rather people of East Asian and even South Asian descent having appearance and facial resemblance with Chinese are also facing xenophobia, prejudice, racial discrimination and violence.

Admittedly, disease inculcates fear in human minds which, in turn, fosters discrimination. This had been happening in the history whenever there was an outbreak of a pandemic. The chronological account of the world shows that during 1853 yellow-fever epidemic in the United States, European immigrants, who were perceived to be more vulnerable to the disease, were primary targets of stigmatization. During SARS outbreak, which originated in China, East Asians bore the brunt. When the Ebola virus emerged in 2014, Africans were targeted. For this reason, the World Health Organization, which is keenly overseeing the global response to the coronavirus outbreak, opted against denoting a geographic location when officially naming the new virus, as it did with Ebola (named after the river in Congo, where it was first detected) and the 2012, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). "Stigma, to be honest, is more dangerous than virus itself;" this is what

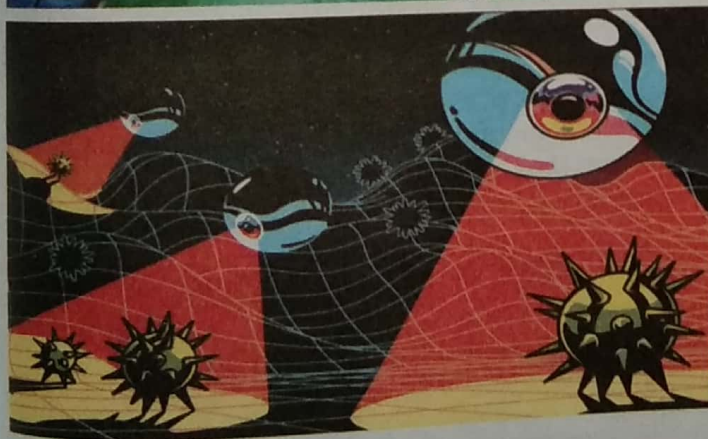


Dr Tedros Adhanom, the Director General of WHO remarked in a press talk.

However, we find newspapers replete with news pertaining to ballooning xenophobia and racial discrimination in the wake of outbreak of Covid-19. Surprisingly, even the country from where the virus originated is not immune to this social epidemic of stigmatization. According to the World Journal, there have been countless instances of Wuhan natives in other provinces being turned away from hotels, having their ID numbers, home addresses and telephone numbers deliberately leaked online or dealing with harassing phone calls from strangers. Some places also reportedly had signs saying

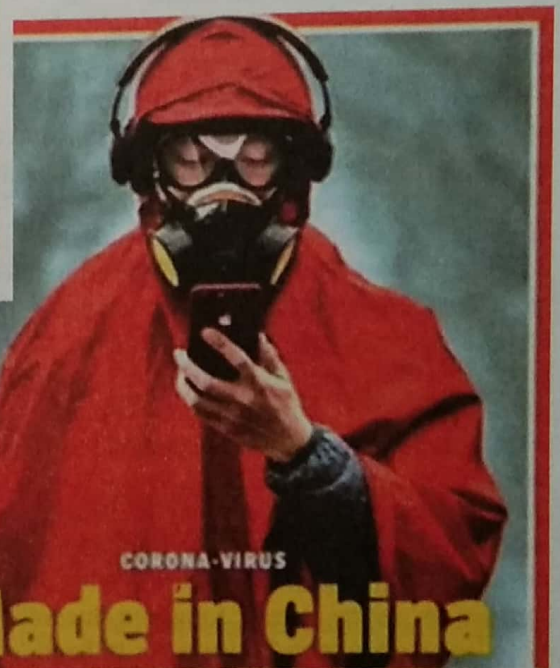
Moreover, people of Hong Kong have also started displaying their antipathy for the people of mainland China. The restaurants in Hong Kong are now demanding customers to produce their identity card of Hong Kong in order to prove that they are not from the mainland. Tenno Ramen, a Japanese noodle restaurant in Hung Hom, refused to serve mainland Chinese customers. The restaurant said on Facebook, "We want to live longer. We want to safeguard local customers. Please excuse us." Indians, too, are showing unjustified bias and prejudice towards Chinese people. An Indian Islamic cleric named Ilyas Sharfuddin said in an audio address that the coronavirus outbreak was a "punishment from Allah on

China for mistreating Uighur Muslims." He said, "They (the Chinese) have threatened the Muslims and tried to destroy lives of 20 million Muslims. Muslims were forced to drink alcohol, their mosques were



"People from Wuhan and cars from Hubei are not welcomed here."

In addition, on 29 March, renowned British daily, The Guardian, reported that Western and African expatriates in China were reporting enhanced racial hostility and discrimination in response to a shift of Covid-19 cases from local to imported ones. It claimed that media in China have published articles titled as "Beware of a second outbreak started by foreign garbage," and incidents of foreigners being barred from restaurants, shops, gyms and hotels, subjected to further screening, and verbal attacks and exclusion are mounting in China, day in day out.



destroyed and their Holy Book was burned. They thought that no one can challenge them, but Allah the most powerful, punished them."

Apart from this, in Israel, more than 1,000 South Korean tourists were instructed to avoid public places and remain in isolation in their hotels. The Israeli military announced its intention to quarantine some 200 South Korean nationals at a military base. Many of the remaining South Koreans were denied check-ins by hotels and were forced to spend nights at Ben Gaurian Airport. An Israeli newspaper subsequently published a Korean complaint that "Israel is treating (Korean and other Asian) tourists like coronavirus."

Sadly, in Japan also, the situation is not different for

Chinese, the hashtag #ChineseDontComeToJapan had been trending on Twitter; furthermore, on Twitter, Japanese people have called Chinese tourists 'dirty', 'insensitive' and 'bioterrorists'. According to an Ipsos MORI poll, 28 percent of Japanese respondents said they would consider avoiding people of Chinese origin in the future to protect themselves from coronavirus.

What's more is that even in Singapore, an online petition urging the Singaporean government to ban Chinese nationals and travellers from China from entering the island country was signed by 125,000 people. To add, the Ministry of Home Affairs of Singapore has ordered an investigation against an Islamic teacher, Abdul Halim bin Abdul Karim, after he had posted on Facebook that the coronavirus pandemic was "a retribution by Allah against the Chinese for their oppressive treatment of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang." In a separate post, Abdul Halim claimed that Chinese people do not wash properly after defecating, and were not as hygienic as Muslims, causing the virus to spread. Home Affairs and Law Minister, K. Shanmugam, slammed the comments as 'silly', 'xenophobic' and 'thoroughly racist' and 'quite unacceptable from anyone, let alone someone who is supposed to be a religious teacher'.

Even in England, on 12 February 2020, Sky News reported that some Chinese people in the United Kingdom said they were facing increasing levels of racist abuse; Chinese businesses in the United Kingdom, including the busy Chinese takeaways and businesses in London's China Town recorded significantly low number of customers in the aftermath of the coronavirus outbreak compared to usual sales related to Chinese New Year celebrations, due to fears of coronavirus spreading through food or unhygienic working practices.

Also in the United States, there have been reports of over 1000 cases of xenophobia and racism against Asian-Americans between 28 January and 24 February 2020, which was during the first Covid-19 cases that were reported in the United States. Media critique organization "FAIR" has documented instances of anti-Asian racism on the streets, and states that many US (as well as UK) media outlets capitalize on Sinophobia and "Orientalist

tropes" that the Chinese are inherently sneaky and untrustworthy, and are ruled by an incompetent, authoritarian government that is the "Sick Man of Asia".

Moreover, US President Donald Trump's frequent references to the coronavirus as the "Chinese virus" have been criticized as anti-Chinese and racist, as well as diversionary. Trump continued to use this phrase despite criticism from Democrat legislators as well as Asian-American advocates and public health experts, who said that the use of the phrase inflamed tensions and cited a surge in attacks on Asian-Americans.

Scott Kennedy, an expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that Trump's use of the phrase fuelled a narrative relating not only to the Chinese Communist Party "but of China and Chinese people in general" and was "xenophobic and tinged with racist overtones," especially given the Trump administration's past statements and actions. To conclude, there is a hope that the world will soon surmount the ongoing pandemic. But the pandemic of xenophobia launched particularly against Chinese people and generally against the people of East Asian and South Asian descent, if not inhibited earnestly, would continue to haunt the generations to come and thereby jeopardize the peace of the world. ■

The writer is a legal practitioner-cum-columnist based in Quetta.



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US-Taliban Peace Deal

What next?

Zafar Iqbal Yousafzai

Why this peace deal has come so late and why Washington has finally given up on a military solution? What will be the potential future setup and whether it will sustain or unravel again? What would be the implications of the US withdrawal and how it would differ from the Soviet withdrawal? What role the Taliban would play in the Afghan parliament? Would the future setup, where the Taliban will be a part of the government or at least a political force, be successful without any fear of spiralling into yet another conflict? What would be the input of the regional countries to the future political landscape of Afghanistan? All these questions warrant answers but most of the experts, in one way or another, are in disarray vis-à-vis the future political setup in Afghanistan. When the US invaded Afghanistan and ousted the Taliban regime, the world thought that the country would now enter in an era of peace

and stability as the latter's efforts, either of war or peace and reconstruction, had the support of the international community and world powers, as well as regional countries. However, that did not happen. Afghanistan remained mired in perpetual instability. The US-led coalition forces failed to ensure peace there. Previously, the US strategy to deal with the Taliban and other associated groups was entirely military-driven. It wanted to eliminate through force all those elements that it considered threat to international peace. Within a couple of years of the US invasion, Pakistan suggested a number of times that the US should strike a peace deal with the Taliban. But, the US ignored the sane advice and continued with its militaristic approach. When the Neo-Taliban emerged and the insurgency intensified year by year after 2004, the US accelerated the search operations and expanded its troop deployment to many additional areas.

Finally, the United States and Taliban have signed a peace deal in Doha, the capital of Qatar, after 18-month-long negotiations. As per the terms of the agreement, the United States will start withdrawing its troops within 135 days of the deal and will have to complete it within fourteen months—as per an announcement by a spokesman for US Forces in Afghanistan, the troop withdrawal started on March 09. On the eve of deal-signing ceremony, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that the deal was conditional and that the Taliban would have to keep its promises; must cut its ties with the Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups; and keep continue fighting against the ISIS. On various grounds, questions are being raised on the future setup in Afghanistan as there are apprehensions that the country might again plunge in a civil war like that of the 1990s.

When Barack Obama assumed office as President of the United States in 2009, Afghanistan was his main focus—he wanted to handle the situation and push it towards a solution, either by military means or through negotiations and diplomacy. His policy, in one way or another, was pragmatic. He enhanced the troop deployment on the one hand, and ordered his Special Representative, Richard Holbrooke, to make efforts to engage the Taliban for a peace process, on the other. First-ever contacts with the Taliban were made in 2009. In fact, the Obama administration had realised that the Afghan war couldn't be won through military means alone, so it would be wise to initiate, simultaneously, a peace process as well. Later on, the establishment of the Qatar office and other actors' role contributed to the peace process, which has resulted in a historic peace deal that is likely to bring peace to the war-torn Afghanistan. Moreover, the current deal is highly important for Afghanistan. All the three main parties to the Afghan conflict, i.e. the United States, the Taliban and the Afghan government, were serious about bringing peace to Afghanistan, even if they had to compromise on some of their own interests. During the last five years, Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani, has been making herculean efforts for peace but they remained futile until the US too became serious. The Trump administration, though very tough on Pakistan in its early days, realised the sensitivity of the issue. President Trump realized that without a deal with the Taliban, he would never be able to restore peace in Afghanistan. Furthermore, following the publication of Afghanistan papers by the New York Times, the Trump administration felt the rage among the people that their administrations covered up the Afghan war from the public, and misled them into believing that the US will win the Afghan war. The Taliban also showed flexibility and keenness for the peace process. The Doha deal includes provisions like the US withdrawal and mainstreaming of the Taliban and the latter, in return, has also agreed not to allow Al-Qaeda or any other terrorist group to use Afghan soil in the future.

If hopes are high after the peace deal, scepticism too is there in various circles that the future of the Afghanistan

might be volatile after the US withdrawal. The country might witness another Civil War, much like that in the 1990s after the Soviets withdrew. However, the current situation is quite different from that of the post-Soviet withdrawal period. During that time, three factors played a crucial role in the eruption of the civil war and the subsequent fall of the Najibullah government—the central government, the internal actors (anti-government Mujahideen and warlords) and the external actors (like the Soviet Union, Pakistan, and the United States).

Although the Soviets withdrew, their aid continued pouring in for the next couple of years. The Soviet-

backed Najibullah government survived until the aid continued. However, after the

downfall of Gorbachev and the subsequent disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, Najibullah could not cope with powerful warlords who were now armed with weapons that had originally come into the country for the Mujahideen. Najibullah resigned from presidency ten days before the Peshawar Accord was signed by the Mujahideen on April 26, 1992.

In addition, internal factors, such as an anti-government coalition of Mujahideen, were strong enough to compel Najibullah to resign. Besides, he had no

external financial, military or political support to stay in power. The external powers' role also contributed to the fall of Najibullah. The most active players in the Afghanistan issue, i.e. Pakistan, the United States, and the Soviet Union, changed their roles. The Soviets withdrew and later ended financial support for Afghanistan; the US, having

achieved its interests, also washed her hands and went off the scene. However,

being a next-door neighbour, Pakistan had to stay involved as its interests in Afghanistan were long-lasting. Pakistan's relations were not good with the Afghan government due to many reasons, so it wanted to have a pro-Pakistan counterweight in Kabul. After the fall of Najibullah government, Pakistan supported the Mujahideen. However, in late 1994, when the Taliban emerged, Pakistan cashed in on the situation by supporting them and they subsequently dominated Kabul in September 1996.

If we compare the current situation, it resembles the previous civil war. The same main actors are there:



internal actors (such as the Afghan government and the US); external actors like Pakistan, China, Iran, Russia, Qatar, and some other gulf countries. All these actors will play their role now as well as in the future.

The internal actors are serious about negotiations and a future peace settlement. The US and Taliban have inked a deal that obligates the latter to engage in intra-Afghan talks with the Afghan government. Such agreements were not made in the 1990s. The US is not keen to continue its military involvement in the Afghan war and the Taliban, too, are exhausted after a prolonged war that has spanned almost forty years. Each party is gaining something due to the deal and they are happy about it. The US will withdraw from Afghanistan (the foremost demand of the Taliban); Taliban will become a part of the political process (political legitimacy). These gains, materialising after a long struggle, were very favourable to them. Having taken stock of the situation, the Taliban know they can't rule Afghanistan alone, so it was better to stop fighting and accept a slice of the pie.

Furthermore, being natives, they want their country to move on. As far as the external actors' role is concerned, it's too important to have a positive input for the future Afghan setup in shape of support after the US withdrawal. Being the most actively involved in Afghan affairs since long, Pakistan has a crucial role to play. It has often been said that the path to peace in Afghanistan goes through Pakistan. Without Pakistan's support, any political settlement in the Afghan affairs would be futile. If we look back at the Bonn Conference of 2001

on Afghanistan, Pakistan was misrepresented, which had greatly affected the Afghan settlement. For more than a decade, Pakistan has suffered because of terrorism. It wants to overcome this menace, for which peace in the region in general, and in Afghanistan in particular, is indispensable. Furthermore, by becoming a political force, the Taliban would become instrumental in shaping Pakistan's interests—which is to block any anti-Pakistan move in the Afghan parliament.

Furthermore, China also has stakes in Afghanistan. Peace in Afghanistan would have numerous positive outcomes for China; it would open a new market for Chinese products; will help China tackle the Xinjiang issue; provide China an opportunity to exploit Afghanistan's natural resources, and, most importantly, would open Afghanistan up to OBOR (One Belt, One Road) which will connect China with Europe and the rest of the world.

For Iran, a peaceful Afghanistan and mainstreaming of the

Taliban would be a good development due to many reasons. It would bring stability in Afghanistan, which directly affects the neighbouring countries. Secondly, due to the US opposition, Iran developed close contacts with the Taliban and also provided them with the much-needed support. It was also believed that Iran provided Taliban with anti-aircraft missiles following the souring US-Iran tension. Moreover, the colossal threat of ISIS to Iran would also be curtailed once the Taliban become a part of the Afghan government. Iran's relations with the Taliban have been rocky since the Afghan Civil War when the Taliban assassinated the Iranian diplomats in Mazar-e-Sharif. However, the current situation is different; Iran did want the Taliban to compel the US forces to leave Afghanistan, for its own interests.

For India, peace in Afghanistan is a great development, however; it aspires to have an active role there. However, India did not want the Taliban to be mainstreamed.

So, it is challenging for India to cope with the situation it may face in a post-US withdrawal Afghanistan.

Last but not least, a peaceful Afghanistan and US withdrawal would serve Russia's and Central Asia's interests. Chaos in Afghanistan has also been a threat to Central Asia and the Russian interests in the region. Russia is also supported the Afghan peace process in order to build its clout in the region. The US withdrawal would provide Russia an opportunity to fill the vacuum.

In essence, the interests and priorities of the main actors in the Afghan conflict, in addition to the historical shreds of evidence, prove that the US-Taliban peace deal would be successful in bringing peace to the war-torn country. Although strong scepticism persists in various circles about the future of Afghanistan, the current situation is quite different from that of the post-Soviet withdrawal which led to the Civil War. The failure of the peace agreement seems unlikely as there is only one insurgent group (Taliban) that has a chain of command and works under a proper structure. When the Taliban observed a ceasefire in 2018 on the eve of Eid, not a single bullet was fired.

It is now a test time for the Afghan political factions and groups to take advantage of the peace deal and further pave the way for peace in Afghanistan. Now, it is Afghans' turn to seize this opportunity and invest in peace. ■

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Afghan riddle is not going to be solved as easily as thought by the American strategists and their advisors. Afghans seem cursed for not uniting at any cost. Each and every ethnicity has managed to weigh their say at every platform and they are not in a mood to accommodate each other in national politics. Central government is getting weaker day by day and it seems that the country is on the verge of another period of chaos and anarchy. This is because the intra-Afghan dialogue is not gaining the momentum it should have gotten by now, and the gulf of distrust between the parties is widening. Communication gap, too, is yawning which may create further hurdles in the way of achieving the long-awaited peace settlement between the Taliban and the Afghan government.



Before materializing the peace deal, the central government in Afghanistan passed through internal scuffle, so much so that two contesting presidential candidates took oath as president on the same date at the same venue, i.e. Kabul. Dr Ashraf Ghani got majority votes but the runner-up, Dr Abdullah Abdullah, denounced Ghani's victory and arranged his own oath-taking ceremony in the presidential palace. Nevertheless, the regional states have congratulated and acknowledged Ashraf Ghani as a legitimate and democratically-elected president of Afghanistan. Coming towards materialization of the notion of intra-Afghan dialogue, the newly-inaugurated government is reluctant to break ground as it is using delaying tactics in this regard. The release of Taliban prisoners was the first case in this regard. As many as 5000 prisoners were to be released from Afghan prisons as per the terms of the US-Taliban deal, but the Ghani administration promised to release only 1500 and that too at different stages. The Afghan Taliban sent their three-member delegation to

Mairaj ul Hamid Nasri

Afghan presidential palace, the Arg, to negotiate and give a list of their incarcerated fellows—the delegation was kept short due to the prevailing Covid-19 that necessitates avoiding social gatherings. At the first stage, Afghanistan released only a hundred Taliban prisoners. Due to procrastinations by the Ghani administration, the Taliban announced that they will not participate in any type of dialogue with the Afghan government as indicated by a statement issued from Taliban's Doha Office.

Noted Afghan politicians and warlords have also huddled in Kabul at Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's residence to brainstorm and devise strategy for the upcoming intra-Afghan dialogue. Major national-level political and ethnic leaders attended the moot and there are reports that those belonging to minority ethnicities in Afghanistan are reluctant to accommodate Taliban in a future political setup of the country. Hekmatyar has, reportedly, tried to convince the leaders for accommodating Taliban and each other at central level. This is good news because even a hardliner like Hekmatyar is willing to accommodate and come up with a fruitful outcome in this regard! Talking about US role in post-deal scenario, US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, recently visited Kabul and met the key stakeholders. He held discussions with Ashraf Ghani and Dr Abdullah Abdullah separately, and tried to convince them for a mutual agreement on the previous-style designed by the then-Secretary of State, John Kerry, in September 2014, which led to the formation of National Unity Government in Kabul. Unfortunately, Pompeo's efforts proved futile as is shown by his angry announcement of a major cut of 1 billion dollars on US financial aid to Afghanistan. This is indeed a sign of dismay on the part of the United States as its struggle of 'nation-building' in Afghanistan seems totally failing. NATO partners are also seen as passive colleagues in the



Intra-Afghan Dialogue

The post-deal scenario

post-deal scenario, because all of them are fed-up with the endless war.

The way-out for Afghans and other stakeholders is that they all should make efforts to form a confederation and come out of the persistently failed structure. The Afghan political scenario and terrain both are suitable for confederation. The ethnicities that have their respective areas under their control should be given autonomy and linked with the centre through principles of confederation. Through this way, the local warlords and politicians will become an integral part of their respective localities and constituencies. At the central level, only four departments of defence, communication, foreign affairs and power may be managed in a better way. The global players and regional actors should come forward for prodding Afghans to come up with a prudent political system of confederation for achieving long-envisioned peace and stability in their war-ravaged

country.

To conclude, it can be rightly said that Afghans are now in a position to decide their future political system as all major stakeholders are on board and the international donors are also supporting the dialogue. Regional actors,

i.e. China, Russia, Pakistan, Turkey and Iran, may also play a crucial role for achieving this goal. Taliban have good terms with these states and can be attentive to their advice. Other ethnicities and politicians in Afghanistan can also be persuaded in one way or another. Intra-Afghan dialogue should be started without any further delay and the Afghans should come up

with a practicable solution before they enter another civil war, that may be bloodier than that of the 90s. ■

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US-Taliban peace deal was signed in Qatar on Feb. 29.



DEAL'S CONTENT

- Taliban not to threaten US security in Afghanistan
- US, coalition forces to withdraw from country

- Economic sanctions on Taliban members to be lifted
- Taliban members to be released from prisons
- US not to interfere in internal affairs of Afghanistan
- Negotiations among Afghan parties to begin on March 10, 2020
- US not to use force or threat against Afghanistan's political independence, territorial integrity

US' COMMITMENTS



US, its allies and coalition forces to reduce their troops in Afghanistan to 8,600 in first five months



US military and diplomatic elements to complete withdrawal within 14 months

At least 5,000 Taliban prisoners to be released in exchange for 1,000 Afghan government prisoners till March 10



US to lift economic sanctions against Taliban members till Aug. 27, 2020



US, its allies not to use force or threat against Afghanistan's political independence, territorial integrity or interfere in its internal affairs

TALIBAN'S COMMITMENTS



Taliban not to allow its or Al-Qaeda members to threaten security of US, its allies



Taliban to not provide legal documents including visas, passports for those who might pose threat to US, its allies to enter Afghanistan

Taliban to act in accordance with international immigration laws and commitments to those who will seek or settle in Afghanistan, thus prevent them from threatening US, its allies



The state is back. Long live globalisation. Coronavirus is remaking democratic politics. The paths out of the crisis will present liberal democracies with a choice between authoritarian nationalism and an open global order founded on co-operation between states.

Philip Stephens

Watching nations seal their borders and governments assume draconian powers to combat Covid-19, the temptation is to expect the worst. Compare the shambling performances of US President Donald Trump and the informed statesmanship of New York governor Andrew Cuomo, and you can see reasons for optimism. Competence shines through at moments of crisis.

For politicians, everything but coronavirus is now trivial. Right or left, whatever their election platforms, pledges or governing programmes, the present generation of political leaders will be judged on their handling of the pandemic. One or two may slip through, but emergencies on this scale do not leave many hiding places for bluffers and hucksters.

The return of government to centre stage marks the close of an era in which power and responsibility migrated from states to markets. The response to the pandemic has seen democratic leaders assume powers unprecedented outside wartime. The pandemic was a consequence neither of globalisation nor capitalism. But it has exposed the limitations of unfettered markets — witness the competitive bidding for scarce resources in the US healthcare system.

The crisis has made a bonfire of other orthodoxies. To watch governments throw trillions of dollars into the

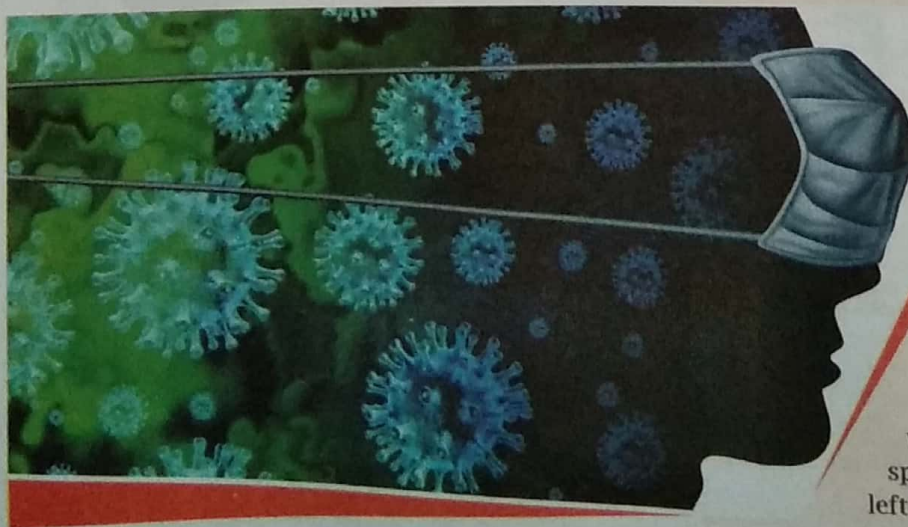
How CORONAVIRUS is Remaking Democratic Politics

The superficial conclusion is that it will be a gift to populists and authoritarians

fight to prevent economic collapse is to appreciate just how absurd was the preoccupation of recent decades with balanced budgets, public deficits and debt-to-GDP ratios. Of course, governments must set sustainable limits for spending and borrowing, but the era of fiscal fundamentalism has passed.

The eventual bill for the defeat of coronavirus will be colossal. At some point the debts will have to be repaid. With luck, however, the context will be a rational discussion and rebalancing of the respective responsibilities of government, private business and citizens.

The financial crash of 2008 proved a lost opportunity for change. The result was rising public discontent and the spread of angry populisms of right and left. Coronavirus leaves no room for a



second hesitation. Voters across most advanced democracies are paying a price in weak healthcare economics. Liberal markets have a long-term future only if they rest on political consent.

The easy conclusion is that the pandemic will prove to be a gift to the populists and a prelude to a lurch towards authoritarian nationalism. The return of the state can be held up as proof that the populists were right all along about global elites. Closed borders are the only safeguard against the outside world. The powers that states have now assumed to fight the pandemic fit the public's preference for security over freedom.

The disinformation campaigns run by Vladimir Putin's regime in Moscow promote just such a message. The pandemic is cast as the work of decadent Western capitalism—a crisis born of untrammelled globalism and enfeebled Western democracy. The relative success of authoritarian regimes in beating the outbreak speaks to their innate superiority over the West's liberal democracies.

The narrative has a superficial attraction. The draconian shutdowns ordered by China's President Xi Jinping undoubtedly helped to bring the initial outbreak under control. Beijing is now relaxing the restrictions. The snag

restore the worth of competence and honesty in democratic politics. President Trump's delusional bluster about how he is defeating the "Chinese" virus is defied daily by the escalation in new cases. It marks out a widening divide between the White House and the state



and local authorities — Republican and Democratic alike — that are confronting the pandemic. Polls show Americans giving the president the benefit of the doubt, for now. But the reckoning cannot be delayed indefinitely.

In Europe, political leaders have regained the attention, and where they have shown grip, the confidence of electorates. Straight-talking has worked. Italian prime minister Giuseppe Conte, French president Emmanuel

Macron and German chancellor Angela Merkel have all won strong public support for harsh measures to suppress the pandemic.

There is nothing inevitable about the restoration of faith in good government. The failure of the European Union to show any real measure of solidarity in supporting Italy's desperate fight against the virus shows how easy it is even for those who preach internationalism to retreat behind national borders. The compelling logic of enhanced global cooperation is no guarantee of action. And, yes, the pandemic will impose a heavy cost in

terms of lost economic output and disrupted trade. That said, coronavirus promises to open a door to the rehabilitation of government, to a more equitable political and economic settlement, to the restoration of faith in democratic politics and to renewed global cooperation. The question is whether the politicians choose to walk through it. ■



is that the same political absolutism provided the incentive for Chinese officials to conceal the earliest cases. As to Russia's claims of its own success, the jury is still out. And the Republic of Korea has shown how a determined, efficient democracy can suppress the virus. To the extent that any good can be said to flow from such a deadly catastrophe, it is in the pandemic's capacity to

EU-Turkey Relations ...and a new refugee deal

Muhammad Zohaib

It must first be noted that Turkey, Greece, and the EU have failed on humanitarian grounds with the way they have approached the problem over the last few months.

Turkey tried to funnel migrants from different countries to Greece in order to extract concessions from the EU. Greece pushed back the migrants using methods that are totally unacceptable from a human rights perspective. The EU practically endorsed Greece's breach of human rights and European values by extending unconditional support to it despite the actions of the Greek security forces at the border and in the Aegean Sea.

The EU and Turkey should focus their efforts on renewing their cooperation, and the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement and Action Plan is a good, even if imperfect, starting point.

The plan is based on a tripartite mechanism through which Turkey takes any necessary measures to prevent irregular migration to Europe. All new irregular migrants crossing from Turkey to the Greek islands are returned to Turkey, and for every Syrian being returned to Turkey from the Greek islands, another is resettled in the EU. This mechanism proved to be effective soon after the action plan was agreed. According to the European Commission, "Three years later, irregular arrivals remain 97% lower than the period before the statement became operational, while the number of lives lost at sea has decreased substantially."

Spanner in the works

What has not worked is the incentive

structure for Turkey. Initially, the EU allocated €3 billion (\$3.27 billion) under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey and mobilized up to an additional €3 billion by the end of 2018. This has been largely, if not entirely fulfilled. And as long as that remains the case, the EU won't commit new funds beyond those announced for up to 2018. According to the agreement, the EU and Turkey committed to improve humanitarian conditions inside Syria, but nothing happened in this regard. The EU has been and remains highly critical of Turkey's military incursions into Syria.

Arguably, the financial issues are easier to settle. The agreement also includes incentives for Turkey regarding its EU accession process and other projects toward integration that have nothing to do with the refugee crisis. These incentives include a speedier visa liberalization process and upgrading the Customs Union. However, they were unrealistic in the first place against the backdrop of Turkey's democratic deficits and public opinion with the EU about Turkey.

Don't repeat the mistakes

Turkey thinks that it has kept its side of the bargain, but that the EU has failed to do the same. That prompted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to threaten to suspend the agreement and action plan. That, in turn, didn't go down well among EU member states. But rather than exchange barbed criticism, what the EU and Turkey really need to do is agree on a new plan. One that builds on the 2016 agreement and revises the

incentives for Turkey in a way that better reflects the burden it is bearing.

The new plan should also decouple cooperation on the refugee crisis from the accession process — the former is transactional while the latter is normative, and therefore they have very different dynamics. Turkey and the EU should also cooperate to proactively mitigate crises in their neighbourhood before they result in mass migration to Turkey and Europe. This would be in line with Ursula von der Leyen's ambition to lead a geopolitical European Commission.

This is an era when nationalism and populism constrain the policy choices of governments, making international cooperation very difficult. Turkey is currently very unpopular in the EU and Turkish citizens are frustrated with the bloc. Refugees are not welcome anywhere in Europe, including in Turkey. However, the EU cannot entirely externalize the refugee problem even if it forgoes its own values; and Turkey cannot deal with the refugee crisis alone. Therefore, whether they like it or not, the two sides are stuck together on this issue. ■



Conspiracy Theories

about Covid-19

After all it's politics, stupid!



Saadia Saif Niazi

The mystery as to who started or invented—coronavirus that caused the Covid-19 pandemic has sown the seeds of suspicion in every person's mind. It is because what is happening in the world and what we are witnessing today is no longer a problem being dealt with by one single country or state; it has become a global phenomenon, affecting all countries and territories, and it would leave a permanent mark on all of humanity as it has already afflicted around 3 million people around the world and killed over 200,000 people, as these lines are being written.

Three big powers, i.e. USA, China and Russia, with their own narratives have given rise to different conspiracy theories. According to the United States, the coronavirus is the Chinese virus as it originated in Wuhan (the capital of central China's Hubei province). Even the US President Donald Trump has narrated it, at several occasions, as "China Virus". China's counter-narrative is that the US has planted this virus in Wuhan through its contingent that participated in the 2019

Military World Games which were held from October 18 to 27, 2019 in Wuhan—the epicenter of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus [an American journalist, George Webb, claimed that an American military athlete, Maatje Benassi, a cyclist who was in Wuhan at the time for the cycling competition at the World Military Games, could have been Covid-19 patient zero in Wuhan].

Moscow while taking backseat, allowed its media to amplify the theories, even conspiracy theories, which would help them in future to achieve their strategic objectives.

On the other side, the United Nations is taking a neutral position by calling it "A common enemy,"—'changing status of virus from epidemic to pandemic, sees it as enemy for the world and humanity'. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also published several safety/precautionary measures to curb this pandemic because it is transferable from human to human, through touch or contact with an infected person when (s)he coughs or sneezes. The Covid-19 also spreads when a person touches a surface or an object that has the virus on it, and then touches his/her eyes, nose or mouth. This disease causes respiratory tract infections that can range from mild to lethal.

Nowadays, conspiracy theories are resilient and making their strong narratives. Some people do believe that coronavirus could be a biological weapon, as claimed by the Chinese officials 'that it has been developed by the United States and they sent their military men to Wuhan to spread this'. Similarly, the US holds the view that China has made this in their laboratories. Off and on, rumour-mongering and blame game is on between Beijing and Washington. Some other theorists like David Icke rationalize the Covid-19 with its "Hunger Game Society". Very recently,

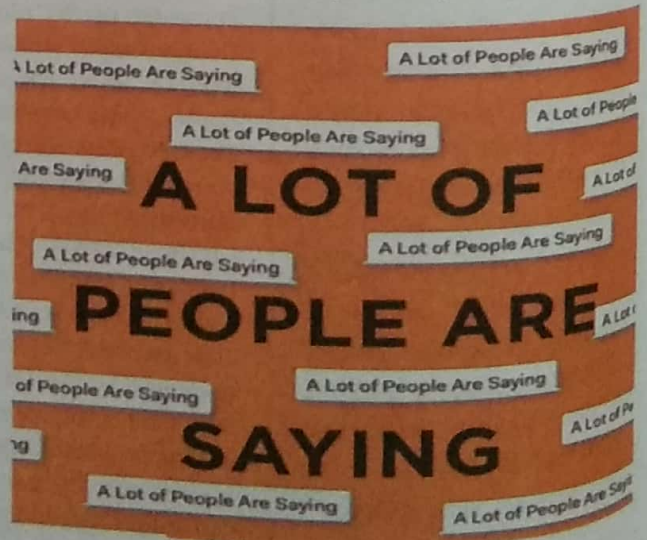
Flow of information is at its peak. Covid-19 could be the best case study to learn how the modern information environment works. There are more people who can control the information through their social media handles such as Instagram, Twitter, WeChat, etc. At this stage, however, it is difficult for people to distinguish between the myths and realities. The real world is where education, loyalty and knowledge matter. We have been witnessing China, struggling hard with the implementation of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for the last six years, and the United States and other



he was interviewed by "London Real - Transform Yourself" where he articulated: "Coronavirus is not a natural tragedy; in fact, it is a preplanned strategy. This world is controlled by some cult which operates beyond borders. This cult is operating in all the developed countries which direct the world. This cult wants to create an overlain state ruled by few people (which is only one percent of the total population) and all this will lead towards economic recession." Elaborating the economic recession, Mr Icke forwarded the viewpoint that the coronavirus hysteria has been created by this situation by the powerful states and it is destroying the family, and small business. And definitely if it is so, no place will be there for small and medium businesses. He also emphasized that this Hunger Game Society has already been intimated by him several years ago.

Another aspect that cannot be ignored here is that of 5G. 5G stands for the fifth generation of Internet communications technologies. Social media activists are blaming 5G for causing the pandemic. According to this school of thought, the pandemic doesn't really exist; instead, it is the radiation from 5G that is actually causing Covid-19 symptoms. It weakens your immune system to the point that you are more easily infected by the coronavirus.

powers remained unable to bring a single alternative 'similar' plan for the world. The BRI is a 'systematic approach' launched in 2012 by President Xi Jinping. This economic construction and connectivity plan consists of six economic corridors, covering half the landmass and half the world population with its over \$8 trillion investment plan. It is also called 'Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation'. China remains in an important period of strategic



opportunity for many states and some of the international organizations for achieving significant development, while it also faces, at the same time, grave challenges posed by multiple problems and issues with considerable risks. Currently, the blame game from the West that China has started this Covid-19 as a biological weapon for economic gains, jargons are floated such as; it is the arm twisting of the US for trade deal; soon American economy will collapse as planned by China; China knows it cannot defeat America militarily as the US is, at present, the most powerful country in the world, and so on. I totally disagree

China to surpass the United States someday as the world's largest economy but the estimated date varies from 2030 to mid-century, depending on what one assumes about the rates of Chinese and American growth." Thirdly, a lot of American people through their social media accounts are claiming that they were the victims of some sort of virus (symptoms) in September and October 2019. Coronavirus issue broke out first in America that already held different simulations last year. Currently, China is demanding details of it from the United States. Moreover, some countries such as Russia and North Korea



with the above proclamations on the following grounds; Firstly, since long China has held a sizeable share of every Western company working in China. And transfer of technology is also binding on foreign companies that want to invest in China. Secondly, China already holds largest share of US treasury, and it happened long before Covid-19. But a clarification is required here: many people still believe that China has surpassed the US to become world's largest economy; it is not so in reality. As articulated by Joseph S. Nye Jr. in his recent piece titled as 'Power and Interdependence with China', "China has not yet replaced the United States as the world's largest economy. Measured in purchasing power parity, the Chinese economy became larger than the American economy in 2014, but purchasing power parity is an economist's device for comparing estimates of welfare, not for measuring power ... Many economists do expect

are less affected because of successful containment of coronavirus. This is just because the role of state is strong in these countries, which Western and other countries lack. Their health systems have been privatized, and a fragile healthcare system is more vulnerable to Covid-19. Needless to point out that Russia will be more than happy to blame Beijing and Washington to do its best to gain some hold of international politics, once again, by creating conspiracy theories. Both China and USA are blaming one another but no one is thinking that it can be Russia that planted this virus to make two most powerful countries fight one another. That is also possible. After all, it's politics, stupid! ■

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EU's Coronavirus Emergency Deal

Ansar Hafeez

After weeks of wrangling, EU member states buried their differences and agreed a 500-billion-euro (\$550 billion) emergency plan for a European economy knocked to its knees by the coronavirus outbreak. Here is what was decided at the crunch meeting:

Go it alone

First, the member state finance ministers welcomed a raft of national, go-it-alone spending plans that have proliferated across the continent, amounting to a total of about three percent of the EU's total GDP, or nearly 600 billion euros.

Totally uncoordinated, these plans underline Europe's deeply ingrained inequality, with a clear advantage for to rich countries like Germany and the Netherlands that have the means to spend big.

Heavily-indebted member states, Spain and Italy, caught on the virus frontline, do not have these means and they risk spooking the markets if their crisis spending becomes too large.

The challenge for ministers was to come up with a plan to better share the burden and keep the markets at bay.

The bailout fund

The heart of the plan, pushed by Germany, is the use of the European Stability Mechanism, the eurozone bailout fund created in 2012 during the debt crisis to help states facing financing problems on the markets.

The ESM has a total strike force of about 420 billion euros but, in exchange for help, governments in need must implement reforms and endure the scrutiny of auditors sent to national capitals by the EU.

Italy and Spain long resisted this avenue as long as it came with these conditions attached—conditions that hardline Netherlands insisted must remain.

In the end, ministers accepted to open limited credit lines to any of the EU's 27 member states that ask for them, but only as long it is spent on costs "directly and indirectly" connected to Covid-19.

Coronabonds?

Italy and Spain, with the backing of France and a few others, had called for the creation of a financial "instrument" through a common loan by all 19 countries that use the

On April 09, Eurogroup finance ministers agreed an emergency rescue package aimed at responding to the coronavirus crisis but left unresolved questions on how to pay for a later economic recovery plan for the bloc. While ministers agreed on a €500bn package of palliative economic measures in their meeting, they did nothing to lay to rest the festering dispute over how to pay for the longer-term economic reconstruction effort that will follow the crisis. The emergency rescue package promises to make available half a trillion euros to cushion the impact of the coronavirus pandemic across Europe.



single currency.

These instruments—dubbed "coronabonds" by Rome—would pool borrowing by eurozone countries to spend on the economic recovery after the coronavirus outbreak recedes.

Despite passionate pleas, Berlin and the north did not budge and the idea of a recovery fund financed by pooled borrowing was kicked down the road.

Though the final statement refers to "innovative" sources of financing for an eventual recovery fund, Dutch Finance Minister Wopke Hoekstra told reporters "we should not fool ourselves".

"There is a majority against eurobonds, majority against debt mutualisation, there is a deliberately vague text," he said.

Member states whose debt is considered the safest, led by Germany, have always refused to mutualise their risk for the benefit of countries considered less financially virtuous.

European Investment Bank

Germany and the Netherlands have touted other acts of solidarity, including a decision by the EU's executive to suspend deficit and debt rules during the course of the crisis, as well as

lift bans on state aid.

Ministers thanked the European Investment Bank, run by the 27 member states, for proposing a pan-European guarantee fund. It would be supported by guarantees from the member states, which would make it possible to mobilise up to an additional 200 billion euros, mainly targeted at European small business.

Marshall Plan

Ministers accepted a European Commission proposal for a bloc-wide guarantee that could raise 100 billion euros to aid certain types of national unemployment schemes as millions of jobs are hit by the coronavirus outbreak.

In the complex scheme, called SURE, the bloc's 27 national governments would give a temporary budget to Brussels so the EU executive can raise money on the markets to lend to member states struggling to help employees suddenly left without work.

The commission has also suggested using the EU's long-term budget for 2021 to 2027, currently under negotiation, which could be beefed up to act as a "Marshall Plan" to deal with the crisis. ■

Population growth, climate change, economic and agricultural expansion and deforestation are all placing greater pressures on the world's limited supplies of water. With more than half the world's population likely to live in water-scarce areas by 2050 and 40 percent dependent on transboundary water, there is a growing threat that unless consolidated efforts to share rivers, lakes and aquifers that cross national boundaries are made, a growing risk of conflict as global water supplies remains high. At present, fewer than one in three of the world's transboundary rivers and lake basins and just nine of the 350 aquifers that straddle more than one country have cross-border management systems in place, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit. In case of South Asia, water shortages, exacerbated by climate change and population growth, could lead to increased conflicts. In this context, Pakistan is particularly in dire straits as two of its neighbours, India and Afghanistan, have colluded to stop flow of water from their respective territories into Pakistan. So, there is an urgent need to develop a regional mechanism to make 'transboundary water resource management an instrument for cooperation rather than conflict.

W

ater is a basic human right but the population explosion, technological boom and high demand for water has led to a global water shortage that is endangering millions around the world. Pakistan, especially, is in trouble as both its eastern and western neighbours, being hostile to the country, are putting in collaborative efforts to create an acute water crisis for it. On the eastern side, Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, has persistently threatened to block the flow of water from India into Pakistan despite the fact that both countries have signed the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. On the western side, Afghanistan is pushing, in collaboration with India, to build dams to store and regulate water, which is an indirect blow to Pakistan. This is a critical situation that demands prudence and all-out efforts on the part of Pakistan authorities. Hence, there is a pressing need to open diplomatic channels for 'hydro diplomacy' so as to address water management issues among India, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Introduction

Roughly two-thirds of the 263 transboundary lake and river basins that cover almost half the Earth's surface, and are home to about 40 percent of the world's population, do not have a cooperative management framework. As many as 145 States have territory in these basins, and 30 countries lie entirely within them. There are approximately 300 transboundary aquifers, helping to serve the 2 billion people who depend on groundwater. Cooperation is, therefore, essential, especially in areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and where water is already scarce. Population growth, socio-economic development, and mismanagement of existing water supplies across the world, are expected to combine with climate change threats to challenge the ability of many countries, some already resource-stressed, to meet their domestic water needs. This can threaten human security, food security, national security, and regional stability. Across the world, increasing threats to the available supply of water can disrupt food security as the greatest consumer of water is the agricultural sector.

In the face of these threats, Pakistan and its neighbours need to strengthen water management on the two transboundary river basins—Indus and Kabul. Both the river basins are critical for the food, energy and human security needs of the

Water Disputes with India and Afghanistan



Pakistan needs hydro diplomacy

countries' populations. While the Indus River shared with India is governed under the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, the Kabul River has no cooperative arrangement between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Even the treaty with India on water-sharing overlooks the many vulnerabilities of the Indus Basin—including climate change, environmental flow management and socio-economic development. The Indus is the world's most vulnerable water tower owing to high dependence downstream and greater impact of climate change, socio-economic development and associated rises in water use, and geopolitical instability. Management of transboundary water upstream and downstream also holds true for provincial boundaries within Pakistan.

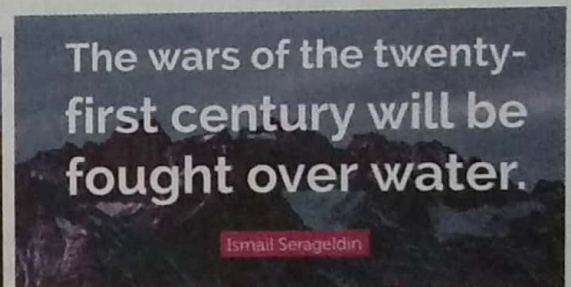
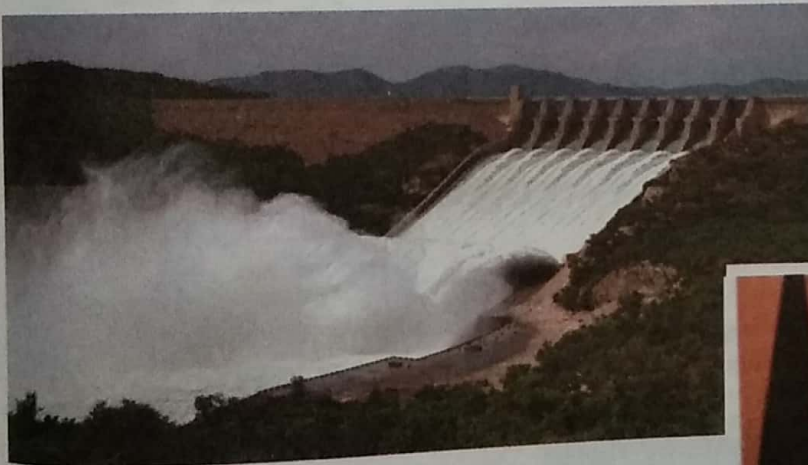
Scenario with Afghanistan

When it comes to Afghanistan, we find that the country is currently experiencing a 60 percent drop in the rain and snowfall needed for food production. The rapid expansion of Kabul's population, extreme drought conditions across the country and the specter of climate change is also said to have exacerbated the need for new water infrastructure. A 2017 study by Afghan, German, and Finnish universities stresses that Afghanistan desperately needs better water infrastructure and water

reduce the water flows into Pakistan that could severely limit the country's future access to water. The Pakistani media has already reported that there could be a 16 to 17 percent drop in water flow after the completion of the Shahtoot Dam and other planned dams. According to the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations' 2011 report on water security in Central Asia, "Providing the right support by India (while constructing the Shahtoot dam) can have a tremendous stabilizing influence, but providing the wrong support can spell disaster by agitating neighbouring countries."

Shahtoot Dam and Indo-Afghan Nexus

Beyond reducing water flow to Pakistan, the Shahtoot Dam has a unique capacity to escalate tensions in the region, thanks to its funding from India. India has made major investments in Afghanistan's infrastructure in recent years—from highway construction to repair of government buildings and dams damaged by conflict. Since 2001, India has pledged about \$2 billion total in development projects in Afghanistan. And while Afghan analysts have made the case that the dam is critical to surviving future water shortages in Afghanistan, Pakistani officials in Islamabad are casting India's investment in a harsher light, contending that the dam is merely the latest



management. Afghanistan is in the process to construct the Shahtoot Dam on Maidan River, an upper tributary of Kabul River in the Chahar Asiali district of Kabul Province. This dam will hold 146 million cubic meters of potable water for two million Kabul residents and irrigate 4,000 hectares of land. It will also provide drinking water for a new city on the outskirts of Kabul called Deh Sabz. But building dams on the Kabul River is said to be a politically complicated matter; the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region is said to be defined by its complex maze of trans-boundary rivers and there is no legal framework in place to avoid major conflict between the nations. And the development is said to be fueling fears downstream in Pakistan that the Shahtoot Dam which is being funded and built by India will alter the flow of the Kabul River and

move in India's grand plan to strangle Pakistan's limited water supply. Because Pakistan has failed to build enough hydropower infrastructure at home, some Pakistanis fear it might have to buy electricity from Afghanistan in the

future.

State of affairs in India

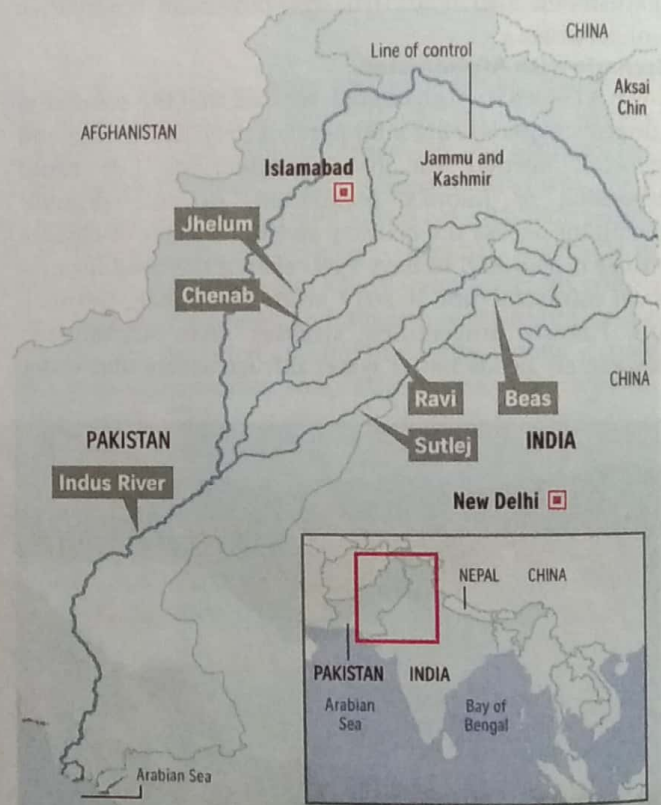
Last year, many Indian states faced severe water scarcity. The situation deteriorated further as we witnessed the second driest pre-monsoon season in the last 65 years. According to the Drought Early Warning System (DEWS), the problem is worrying as the drought-like situation covers more than 44 percent geographic area, an increase of 11 percentage points over a year ago. In a recent report, India's leading business daily, 'The Hindu BusinessLine', quoted India's Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of Science and Technology as saying they have "found a significant increasing trend in the intensity and areal coverage of moderate droughts over India in recent decades". It added that "more intense droughts have been observed over North and Northwest India and neighbouring Central India".

Since 2015, drought has become more widespread in India – with the exception of 2017. The spell of drought last year emptied hundreds of villages across different states as people fled extremely high temperatures abandoning homes in search of water and solace from the scorching sun. The acute water shortages have destroyed agriculture-based livelihoods as crops like cotton, maize, soya, pulses, and groundnuts have withered devastating local economies. In the past, crop failures and mounting debts have pushed hundreds of thousands of farmers to commit suicide, a trend that has seen a phenomenal increase in the last decade.

The politics of India and Pakistan adds yet another, and potent, twist to the growing water crisis in the region. The increasing mutual trust deficit and growing rhetoric of the Indian leadership are fuelling speculations about a future 'water war' with Pakistan.

Case of Pakistan

In Pakistan, the situation is no different. Drought has become a frequent phenomenon with the drought of 1998–



What is Water (or Hydro) Diplomacy?

Water diplomacy can be defined as the use of diplomatic instruments to existing or emerging disagreements and conflicts over shared water resources with the aim to solve or mitigate those for the sake of cooperation, regional stability, and peace.

Water diplomacy is about applying diplomatic instruments, not technical ones. Water diplomacy's diplomatic instruments may include negotiations, dispute-resolution mechanisms, the establishment of consultation platforms, and the organization of joint fact-finding missions. Technical instruments—such as establishing basin-wide management plans or joint monitoring networks—are not part of water diplomacy. While diplomatic and technical instruments often build on each other and can be directly linked, consistently defining water diplomacy merits this strict differentiation as will become clear later on. Water diplomacy focuses on disagreements and conflicts. Disagreements and conflicts are not narrowly defined as official, full-fledged

disputes being fought with diplomacy, or even violence. Instead conflicts include situations in which user groups (nationally or internationally) have competing uses for a scarce resource that can lead to disagreements that destabilize communities, countries or regions. Conflicts can relate to different understandings of whether a watercourse should be developed for unilateral economic gains or for mutual benefit; an issue particularly pertinent in shared water basins, for instance. Ideally, such disagreements are addressed before they turn into conflicts, thus making much of water diplomacy preventive diplomacy.

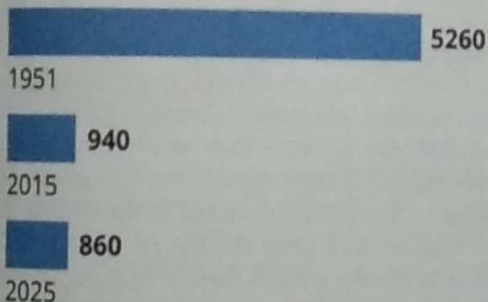
Water diplomacy has the ultimate goal of ensuring regional cooperation, stability, and peace. It is much more than water resource management. Water diplomacy uses water resources as a means of contribute to the broader goals of peace and stability through diplomatic engagement and cooperation.

2002 considered the worst in the country's history. The express lack of any serious official planning coupled with corruption, uncontrolled human population, urbanisation, and absence of water management has aggravated the issue. A 2017 report from the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) claimed the country had touched the "water stress line" in 1990, and a decade and a half later, it crossed the "water scarcity line" in 2005. The country is supposed to reach the "absolute scarcity" level of water by 2025. Growing seasonal afflictions such as delay in the monsoon season or failure to get enough rains exacerbate the situation as rainfall has been steadily declining; this,

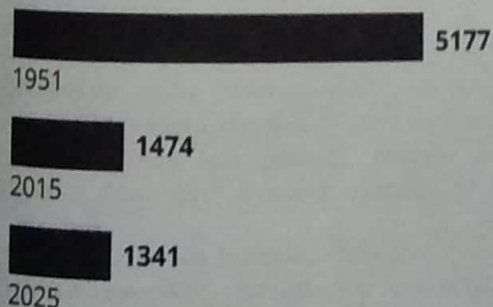
Water availability in Pakistan and India

Per capita (cubic meters per year)

Pakistan*



India**



according to experts, is being mainly linked to climate change. In Sindh and Balochistan, drought has almost become a permanent feature with deaths being reported regularly from Sindh, particularly in Tharparkar. But amid increasing political rancour and the perennial tussle between various state institutions, there is hardly any time to think about the future that, by various scientific studies, is not too distant in future and carries extremely grim predictions. Any failure in agriculture would choke Pakistan's lifeline as about 60 percent of its GDP depends

on agronomy.

The availability of water means everything to Pakistan, an agricultural nation with the world's most interconnected irrigation system. This was why the government began the Diamer-Bhasha dam project, which would, to some extent though, neutralise external water threats by ensuring adequate water storage in the country. But, it must also be kept in mind that despite having signed a treaty with Pakistan, India has intermittently threatened to block Pakistan's share of water flowing from its borders. Besides Modi's tantrums, in February last year, Nitin Gadkari, India's then water resources minister, publicly alluded to the "calls for India to prevent even a single drop of water from going to Pakistan". While such pronouncements may be dismissed as hot air, they are bound to heighten existential anxieties and support permanent escalation further constricting any room for engagement. Some alarmist suggestions foresee an immediate nuclear war should India realise the threat. So we need to be aware of and prepare for in case of any conflict.

Conflict resolution with:

1. Afghanistan

A water-sharing treaty between Pakistan and Afghanistan could, it is believed, potentially help promote the irrigation techniques used and determine the types of hydroelectric projects that can be built along the Kabul River basin. Afghanistan and Pakistan must, therefore, urgently start paying attention to regional hydro-diplomacy. The first step is to support the gathering of data, which would be shared with all neighbours, and potential scientific forecasts of the planned dams' impacts on water flow. Scientists need to be involved with international diplomatic and scientific support.

2. India

Unless Pakistan and India commit to solving the bilateral water issues through effective hydro-diplomacy in line with the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), a war between the two countries may break out in future.

Conclusion

With rising water demand and declining availability, along with the pressures of increasing climatic variation and climate change, Pakistan needs to work with both India and Afghanistan towards collaboration in the governance systems of water management, beginning with joint monitoring and assessment of shared waters with both its neighbours. Such collaborations will eventually help move towards implementation of some form of an integrated river basin management framework for optimising and sustaining the use of available water resources. South Asian countries could use their shared water resources for attacking poverty and achieving economic development by implementing a mechanism to monitor and assess shared water, and by collaborating closely with one another to resolve their water-sharing disputes. ■



Four Cardinal Principles for Pakistan's water diplomacy

Dr M. Usmani

Pakistan's water diplomacy in the region must be based on four cardinal principles:

1. Pakistan's regional diplomacy should seek to proactively respond to India's efforts to keep a lid on water as a bilateral matter and deal with each neighbour separately. Pakistan is not the only country with which India has unresolved water issues. In fact, India has such disputes with almost all its neighbours, from Bangladesh to China. Pakistan should, therefore, elevate transboundary waters to bilateral discussions with all of India's water neighbours, particularly Bangladesh and China, but also with increasingly more assertive Bhutan and Nepal.
2. Transboundary water is not only about diplomatic negotiations, but also about an issue of upstream investments for downstream economic needs. Pakistan has not made adequate investments to secure water for its future use. Upstream investments in Bhutan by India have resulted in three hydel power projects of 1,416MW, and three more of 2,129MW are under construction. Afghanistan-Pakistan geography and topography is ideally suited for benefit-sharing from Kabul River. Pakistan needs to consider similar upstream investments in Afghanistan, where the construction of 13 smaller dams is under consideration. Pakistan can fully or partially fund the construction of one or two smaller dams in Afghanistan. In return, Pakistan can secure both energy and water to lift its tribal areas and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa out of water and energy deficits. A clear proposition by Pakistan can help Islamabad forge common ground with Afghanistan and, ideally, with the World Bank. Prolonged inaction by Islamabad will inevitably result in a void that can be too tempting for extra-regional actors. Upstream water investments in Afghanistan are in Pakistan's strategic interest: increased agricultural

productivity and livelihood options can help curtail migration from Afghanistan to Pakistan for economic opportunities between Peshawar and Karachi. This can also lay the foundation for regional water markets. Much like the proposed South Asian energy corridors, the time for regional water markets is fast approaching.

3. Water for Pakistan is more than about precipitation during the monsoon. Climate change is creating a similar set of challenges for regional countries in the Himalayan-Hindu Kush regions, and from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea. It is posing serious threats to food security, increasing migration and extreme events, including floods, droughts and heatwaves. Cloudbursts in Jammu inundated Sialkot, much as Nowshera became a victim of flooding in the Kabul River. Transboundary flooding risks are attributable to climate change and are engulfing the entire South Asian region. Transboundary water management needs to be ramped up by Pakistan to a higher regional and international security plateau, and employed as an instrument to enhance regional trade and economic cooperation.

4. For success in regional water diplomacy, Pakistan must invest in institutional infrastructure. How could a country that depends so much on transboundary water supplies not have a full-fledged water ministry and departments at the federal and provincial levels? How could Pakistan afford not to have national and provincial water policies? Or water pricing? In order to bury the ad-hocism of regional water diplomacy, a National Commission on Transboundary Waters needs to be established with a constitutional status comparable to the Election Commission, mandated to manage all transboundary water issues dealing with the Upper Indus Basin, Afghanistan and, of course, India and the IWT's Permanent Commission. ■

Law and Policing

in the Era of Covid-19

Kamran Adil



In the context of Covid-19, however, the constitutional responsibility is of both the federation and the provinces jointly. Whereas, after the Eighteenth Amendment that was introduced in 2010, health falls in the sole domain of the provinces, the border controls as stated in Fourth Schedule of the Constitution outlining the items of the Federal

Legislative List is the responsibility of the federation. Hence, for policing the borders, the federal government is responsible and in case of the pandemic, where the roots of the disease/infection/virus (Covid-19) are international, the federal government is required to use the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), the Coastal Guards, the Frontier Corps and other agencies at its command. It has already used its constitutional authority and deployed armed forces by invoking Article 245 of the Constitution. The provinces, on their part, have made arrangements for health, and have also deployed provincial police organizations. The crux is that both the federation and the provinces have constitutional responsibility within their domains to deal with the pandemic. It may be noted here that the provinces have passed resolutions under Article 144 of the Constitution in favour of the federation requiring it to deal with 'medicine and drugs' and 'disaster management'. Accordingly, the federation is dealing with 'approval' processes for medication to deal with Covid-19 and has activated the country's disaster management agency, i.e. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The deployment of armed forces under Article 245 of the Constitution also means that Covid-19 is being dealt with as a national security matter.

2. Preventive Law

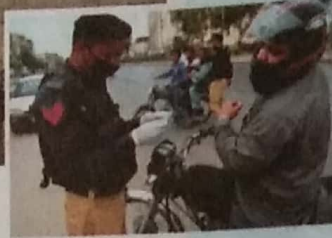
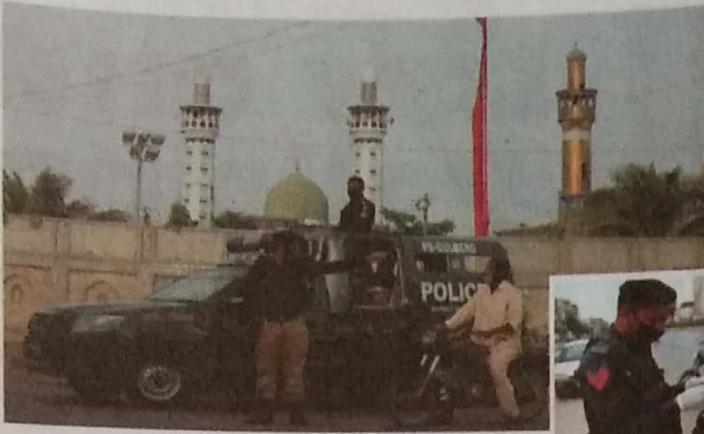
The law of policing in Pakistan is stated in the Code of Criminal Procedure, along with the provincially-enacted police laws. It may be noted that the legal framework for policing in Pakistan is predominantly post fact, i.e. detection-based; the law related to preventive and anticipatory actions is quite underdeveloped. In order to implement 'social distancing' and 'lockdowns', the law

In a constitutional democracy, the law and policing are intertwined. Every action of the police must be backed by law. The law, therefore, has to provide enabling legal framework to empower, with safeguards, police to perform their evolving functions. In the context of Covid-19, new challenges have emerged for policing. Predominantly, police are required to implement 'social distancing', 'contact tracing' and 'lockdown' strategies in collaboration with other functionaries of the state and with active involvement of the health professionals. Whereas 'social distancing' and 'lockdowns' are preventive in nature, the 'contact tracing' is detection-based. The skills and legal frameworks required to deal with both sets of strategies are different. Due to sudden onset of the pandemic, police have been, without any training, required to undertake the implementation. These functional challenges necessitated actions that required sanction of law. The instant write-up will briefly present a survey of the legal framework of Pakistan; besides, the UK law and the INTERPOL Guidelines will be presented to show that practices in Pakistan are no different from international trends.

Pakistan

1. Constitutional Responsibility

Pakistan is a federation that divides the constitutional responsibilities between the federation and the provinces.



related to public nuisances (Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) has been used to order partial and full lockdowns by all the four provinces and by the district administrations therein. The executive orders are temporal in nature and their implementation is carried out by the police. The offences relating to public nuisance are treated by the judicial system as minor in nature. The investigation by police in these cases is not very thorough and most of the cases end up in acquittal or meagre pecuniary punishments awarded on the basis of confessions of the accused. In addition, in the Lahore district, the Capital City Police Officer issued orders under Articles 122, 123, 124 and 125 of the Police Order, 2002, empowering police to prevent assembling of people and ensuring social distancing. The provincial governments also used the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1958, to order segregation at different places including stopping of the public transport at inter- and intra-city levels. The Punjab also got promulgated a new law titled as the Punjab Infectious Diseases (Prevention and Control) Ordinance, 2020, on 27th of March 2020. Section 16 of the Ordinance allows the police to impose reasonable restrictions on people and to use force, if required. The non-compliance to the law has been criminal with imprisonment and fines higher than those awarded in the public nuisance offences. The law also criminalizes the escape from a 'place of retention' (quarantine) with imprisonment and fine. The police leadership has implemented the laws sensibly by ensuring that the supply line of essential items is not disrupted. Operationally, the police had to attain working partnerships with the military, rangers and health professionals to implement the partial and full lockdowns. Once again, the police emerged as the lead agency by coming into contact with public at large and by engaging communities to follow segregation and social distancing. There were no clear-cut orders to get the mosques closed; however, the police managed to engage the religious leadership and exhorted them to not congregate in mosques.

3. Detection Law

The detection law for 'contact tracing' is the same as used

for investigation of criminal cases. The police have, however, chosen not to use it, rather they tried to use investigative tools related to technology just to trace the contacts without recording formal criminal cases. Most of the cases might not involve mala fide required for the acts to be treated as offences.

The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom promulgated a new law called the Coronavirus Act, 2020. The legislation is public health led. The police must seek advice of public health officer before initiating legal action against persons violating the law. The College of Policing, UK, has issued detailed briefing for police officers in which the police have been urged

to 'engage, explain, encourage and enforce' the law. The police have been given the secondary role and the enforcement has been treated as exceptional and to be used as a last resort. The law chiefly provides three powers to police: first, the police can detain someone to be tested whether (s)he suffers from infectious disease or not; secondly, the police can order close down of non-essential businesses; and thirdly, the police can restrict movement of people.

INTERPOL

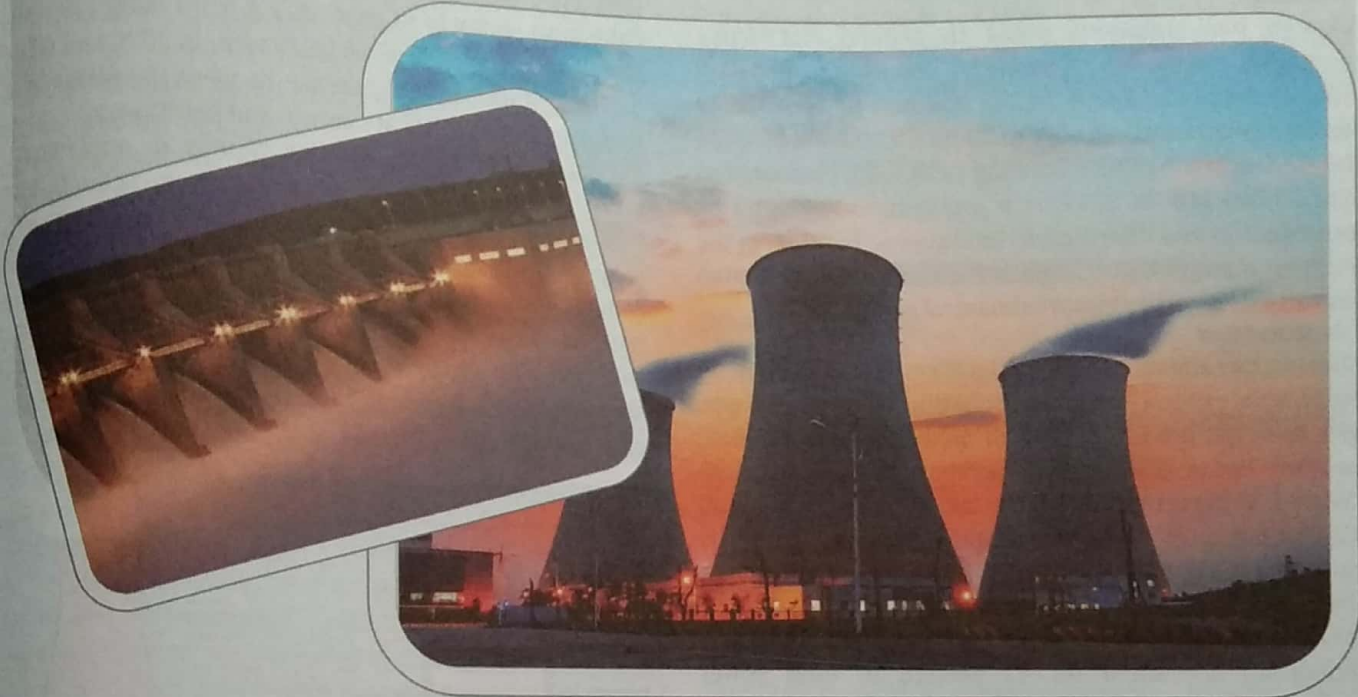
On 26th March, the INTERPOL issued guidelines for police organizations dealing with Covid-19. The guidelines advise police personnel to first protect themselves and to take all precautionary measures. The guidelines are apt due to high rates of positive tests in police dealing with public at large. For example, in New York Police Department (NYPD), over 1000 police officers were found positive in their tests for the virus. The guidelines elaborate duties of law enforcement in Covid-19. The duties are: (1) supporting the public health measures; (2) management of public order; (3) contact tracing; (4) securing delivery of emergency supplies; (5) public messaging; (6) preventing deliberate contamination; (7) checking supply of fake and counterfeit medical products; and (8) prevention and detection of cybercrime related to Covid-19.

Concluding Remarks

Mostly, the police organizations are dynamic and adaptable to emerging challenges. The police in Pakistan, like elsewhere, have been at the forefront and have quite professionally handled the Covid-19 challenge. The situation, however, needs continuous monitoring as the post-Covid-19 scenario will bring new challenges of surge in street crime due to economic problems and will also witness increased cybercrime due to online financial activities. ■

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Achieving a Cleaner and Resilient Generation Mix



Engr. Sarfraz Nawaz

As a large developing country, Pakistan faces a wide range of problems, especially related to overcoming poverty and improving the health, education and employment opportunities for low-income groups. The energy sector is critical to progress in addressing these problems, but inadequate investment, unreliable energy supplies, weak governance and poor fiscal management of the sector have been major constraints. The problem of creating a viable energy sector that can mobilize the needed investments and support sustainable economic growth is a fundamental challenge. This piece examines the position of Pakistan with respect to five common challenges affecting power-sector transformation, as identified in the initial strategy report, namely: (1) meeting growing energy demands and moving to a cleaner energy mix; (2) improving governance and transparency; (3) increasing affordability and access; (4) addressing environmental degradation and climate change; and (5) achieving power-sector financial viability.

Strategic Priority

Pakistan should continue to diversify its electricity mix but reorient efforts to accelerate the move to lower carbon sources and away from oil and coal by focussing on gas, renewables, and increased energy efficiency. It should seek to facilitate the private investments needed to meet its 30 percent renewables target by 2030 and ensure that the transmission investments

In Pakistan, 58 million people lack access to electricity. With growing incomes, population and urbanization, energy demand is increasing, placing pressure on domestic resources. Expansion of electricity generation to meet rising demand and reduce the endemic power blackouts and outages has been a high priority of the Pakistan government. Despite the existence of indigenous natural gas, renewable, and coal resources, Pakistan has become more dependent on imported oil, gas, and—recently—coal resources. Although natural gas-fired generation provides the largest share of electricity output, Pakistan has significant hydropower production, some nuclear power, and increasing renewable energy generation. Now the country is poised to enhance the share of nuclear portion of its energy mix. In its report “Transforming the power sector in developing countries: Geopolitics, poverty, and climate change in Pakistan,” the Atlantic Council has suggested a robust strategy for Pakistan. The following piece consists of an excerpt from this report.

required to integrate these sources into the grid are realized and carefully coordinated with generation-expansion plans. Given the declining costs of renewables, its favourable solar resources, and high electricity access requirements, Pakistan should give greater priority to minigrids and distributed solar-power systems for towns and villages.

Discussion

Pakistan has ambitious plans to expand electricity-generation capacities. Currently, Pakistan's installed capacity stands at about 34,282 MW and its target is to increase generation capacity to about 50,000 MW by 2022 and 62,186 MW by 2025. Meeting peak load, estimated at over 25,000 MW in 2019, is a problem, exacerbated by transmission and distribution limitations. To address the frequent outages and rising electricity demands, Pakistan has turned heavily to imported natural gas and coal.

1. Natural Gas

Pakistan has already achieved significant reductions in oil generation, especially through substitution of natural gas, with both the level and share of oil declining from 30.22 terawatt-hours (TWh) (26.49 percent) in 2017 to 14.32 TWh (11.54 percent) in 2018. The substitution of gas for oil has substantially reduced Pakistan's fuel import bill by more than US\$2 billion. Pakistan has rapidly increased the use of gas in its power generation since the initiation of LNG imports in March 2015. In March 2018, gas power generation accounted for 43 percent of total power generation (3,013 gigawatt hours), with LNG providing 19 percent and domestic gas 24 percent. Three major new gas power plants in Punjab province, totalling 3.6 gigawatts (GW), accounted for the significant increase.

Pakistan has two floating storage regasification unit (FSRU) LNG facilities at Port Qasim, the Excelerate/Nakilat 3.8 million metric tons per annum (mmta) FSRU at the Engro Elengy Group terminal, and a 5.7 mmta unit owned by Pakistan LNG Terminals Ltd. The main LNG import contracts are for supplies from Qatar. The Cabinet Economic Coordination Committee in July 2019 endorsed planning for a third terminal, and other projects by major oil companies including Shell, Exxon and Total have been proposed. LNG imports are expected to grow with estimated levels of 14 million metric tons (mmt) by 2022 and 21 mmt by 2025, up from just 6.7 mmt last year.

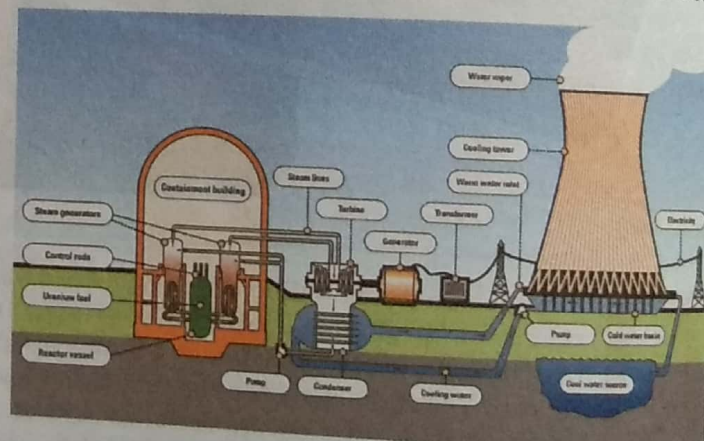
Pakistan's focus on LNG and gas-fired power generation has opened new opportunities for US LNG exports and investment by the private sector. General Electric has a long-standing presence in Pakistan and plays a major role in Pakistan's power system, with its technologies providing as much as 25 percent of Pakistan's total generation. This work includes new gas units, both large and small gas field units, steam systems and wind turbines.

2. Coal

Despite environmental concerns and its Paris NDC commitment to reduce projected CO₂ emissions, Pakistan

is counting on coal to play a significant role in the nation's future power mix, with a combination of both coal imports as well as domestic resource development. Pakistan has 6.6 GW of coal plants under construction, with coal capacity additions totalling 11,353 MW projected for 2025. The Pakistan Vision 2030 targets installed coal capacity of 19,910 MW by 2030, representing 19 percent of the projected installed generation mix. Estimates foresee Pakistan's imports of coal rising from about 12 million metric tons (mmt) in 2018 to 30 mmt in 2020 and 40 mmt in 2025. Imports will increase to meet the needs of two new, large coal plants at Sahiwal and Port Qasim.

Pakistan, is therefore, moving rapidly to implement its policy decision to develop almost from scratch a coal power industry with all the attendant infrastructure requirements for import and transport. Although this follows the trend in some other South and Southeast Asia nations, there are serious questions about the viability of this strategy from both economic and environmental standpoints even though both the Sahiwal and Port Qasim coal plants are efficient and use super-critical coal



combustion technology. In Pakistan, one recent study using data from the energy regulator shows that both renewables and gas are less costly than coal (with wind at 4.3 cents per kWh, solar at 5.3 cents, gas at around 6 cents, and hydro averaging a little over 8 cents, compared with 8.4 cents for super-critical coal. Plants such as the China Huanang coal plant at Sahiwal have been given a power purchase agreement price of 8.36 cents per kWh. These investments create long-term obligations and the coal plants may become stranded assets, potentially obsolete and weighing on balance sheets as renewable energy costs decrease and the costs of climate change increase.

3. Nuclear

Important developments are evident in global nuclear markets as Russia and China seek to expand their political and economic influence in developing regions through the export and state financing of nuclear power plants. China and Russia are building over 60 percent of the nuclear reactors currently under construction in the world. Pakistan is thus far the only foreign country operating Chinese commercial nuclear reactors. Chinese nuclear

engagement with Pakistan dates to 1993, when the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) began construction of the first of four small Chinese CNP300 nuclear reactors at its Chashma complex in central Pakistan, with commercial operation in 2000, 2011, 2016 and 2017. As it pursued export opportunities, China, in 2015, began to construct near Karachi two of its larger, indigenously-designed Hualong One plants (1,000 MW each), the first and only Chinese Generation III plants thus far to be built outside China. They are expected to be completed by 2021 and 2022 and will be an important showcase, together with the four Hualong One plants under construction and ten planned plants in China. CNNC is building these units with reported financing from a US\$6.5 billion loan in 2014 from the Chinese Export-Import Bank. A third Hualong One unit for the Chashma complex is at the tender stage, but it is unclear whether the financing has been finalized. Pakistan envisions 8,800 MW of nuclear capacity by 2030, providing 20 percent of its electric power.

Although nuclear energy is a small part of Pakistan's power mix, these huge projects create a long-term financial, technological and energy dependency on China and its authoritarian system and state companies. They reduce transparency in the sector and raise concerns about safety and security. Pakistan, like India, has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but the nation is a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In 2018, Pakistan established a four-year joint program with the IAEA to work on ensuring the safety and security of the new plants. The economics of the new plants is still unclear, but given the reported size of the loans, it is reasonable to estimate that the plants in Pakistan will cost about US\$4,000 per installed kW, assuming they are completed on schedule. Even with high capacity factors, they will likely be among the highest cost power generation units.

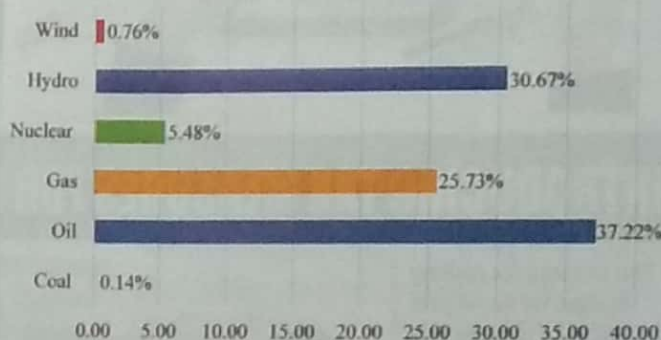
4. Renewables

Interest and investment in renewable energy have picked up over the past four or five years. However, excluding large hydropower capacity, renewables only accounted for 4 percent of Pakistan's generation in 2018. As pointed out in the Renewable Readiness Assessment by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Pakistan has substantial wind energy potential (i.e., 6.9 to 8.6 metres per second in the Sindh corridor and solar resource potential, and international companies from many countries are establishing facilities, particularly in the Sindh and Punjab provinces. Chinese companies have been major investors in wind projects, accounting for 397.5 MW, or 36.8 percent of the new wind power capacity developed in Pakistan between 2014 and 2018. In total, 1,500 MW of wind, solar and bagasse (a biowaste) had been installed as of 2017, and NEPRA projected in 2017 that more than 3,500 MW of these sources will be added by 2024-25. A July 2019 report of the US Commercial Service indicates

that a 400 MW installation at the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park is operating, with expansion planned, and an additional twenty-four solar projects of different scale are producing 550 MW of power. At least six bagasse plants of 201.1 MW are in operation. Besides its large hydropower potential, Pakistan has many favourable sites for small hydro projects; 877 projects are underway and will add to the current generation of 128 MW.

Imran Khan government has recently announced ambitious plans to increase the share of renewable energy

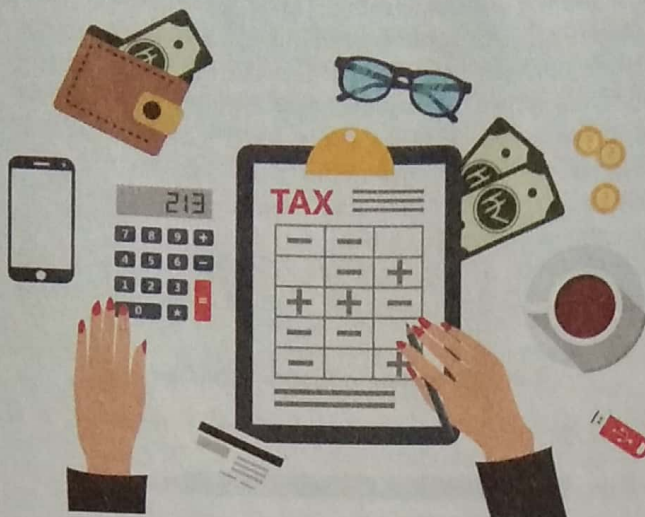
Power Generation by Sources in Pakistan



in total power generation to 30 percent by 2030, including wind, solar, small hydro and biomass. The new plans are expected to expand renewable capacity by as much as 7,000 MW by 2025 to around 20 percent of generation. In addition, there is a target to raise the share of large-scale hydro (more than 50 MW), currently around one-fourth of the country's electricity supply, to 30 percent by 2030. Reaching 60 percent renewable and hydro generation by 2030 would be a tremendous achievement and would counter the growing trend of fossil-fuel imports.

Pakistan has been moving to further its investments in hydropower, which has long been a pillar of the electricity system, accounting for between 25 percent and 30 percent of nationwide generation, depending on water availability. Pakistan's installed hydro capacity reached 9,389 MW in 2018 with the commissioning of the 108 MW Golen Gol 2, the 1,410 MW Tarbela Fourth Extension, and the 969 MW Neelum-Jhelum projects. Work is beginning on the large World Bank-funded 4,320 MW Dasu project, which has experienced major delays due to land issues, and the government has announced an 800 MW Mohmand Dam project on the Swat river in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. Pakistan is experiencing historically low water flows, and the potential for further climate impacts may affect this important subsector, despite the value of the projects in terms of increasing water storage and management capacity. ■

This piece has been excerpted from the third country analysis in the Atlantic Council's "Transforming the Power Sector in Developing Countries" series.



INTRODUCING TAX MEASURES FOR EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE TAX SYSTEM

Bilal Hassan

The process for making budget for fiscal year 2020-21 is underway and to bring certainty, predictability, efficiency, equity and progressivity in the taxation policy, the Federal Board of Revenue, the federal tax collection authority, has invited proposals concerning amendments to the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, from the concerned stakeholders, including chambers of commerce, trade bodies and its field formations. The proposals are invited concerning broad areas of direct taxation policy and therefore, the stakeholders are required to submit proposals for promoting equity in taxation; removal of tax distortions and anomalies; broadening of tax base; phasing out of tax concessions and exemptions; taxation of real income on progressive basis; and facilitation of taxpayers and ease of doing business.



Promoting equity

Equity is one of the golden principles of taxation policy. Many empirical and non-empirical research studies have identified pivotal role of equity in taxation to optimize societal welfare. Equity ensures taxation of real income on progressive basis. It is of two types: horizontal and vertical. Horizontal equity requires that the taxable persons with equal levels of income must pay the same amount of tax for a tax period in which such income is earned. This aspect of equity develops a perception of fairness among taxable persons, especially small and medium ones, and so encourages them to ensure compliance with tax laws. On the other hand, vertical equity requires that the taxable persons with different levels of income must pay different amounts in taxes such that the taxable persons with higher level of income are subject to higher taxes as a percentage of their income than those taxable persons falling within lower income brackets. Vertical equity has a significant role in reducing income gaps between high-income earners and low-income earners during a specific period. So, based on the concept of equity, a tax becomes proportional if all the taxable persons pay the same percentage of their income in the form of tax—regressive if

the taxable persons with higher income level pay tax as a small percentage of their income; and progressive if the taxable persons with higher income pay a greater percentage of their income as tax. Needless to mention that overwhelming portion of tax revenue in the advanced economies comes from direct taxes, which are effectively enforced. This could be one of the reasoning why developed countries are successful in maintaining the lowest gap between higher income earners and lower income earners. Contrary to this, the developing countries, like Pakistan, are collecting major portion of their tax revenues through indirect taxes and presumptive withholding taxes. It is pertinent to mention that the Chairman FBR has recently made a statement that 90pc FBR income tax collection comes from withholding taxes and only 5pc to 10pc comes from voluntary tax compliance. It is considered an uphill task for a state with heavy reliance on indirect taxes to maintain equity and hence to optimize societal welfare. Importance of equity can also be estimated from the fact that governments explore various ways within indirect taxation policy such as targeted exemptions and zero rating on essential items such as food and social necessities for reducing the regressivity of indirect taxes such as sales

tax/value added tax.

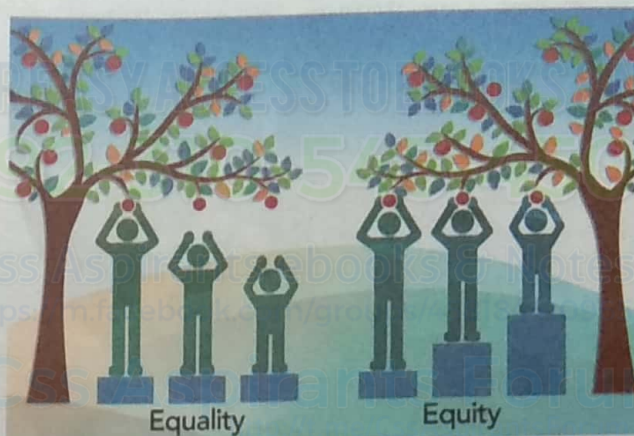
Given the significance of equity in taxation policy, this is an opportunity for stakeholders to come up with concrete proposals to assist the government in making income tax policy more equitable.

Removing tax distortions and anomalies

Removing tax distortions and anomalies, and phasing out of tax concessions, as well as giving exemptions are helpful in achieving equity in the taxation system. To promote economic growth and to achieve economic efficiency, it is essential that taxation policy is neutral to economic agents. A neutral taxation policy does not always interfere with the allocation of resources and its application does not modify the decisions of consumers and investors concerning consumption and investment. Moreover, a neutral tax policy leaves production undistorted so much so such a policy is helpful in achieving broader tax base; taxing broader base at lower rates; optimizing tax revenue; enhancing economic productivity; and stabilizing economy.

Phasing out tax concessions and exemptions

Similarly, phasing out of tax concessions and exemptions is imperative not only to prevent loss of tax revenue, but also to broaden the tax base, to make tax system simple and neutral, to increase tax compliance and to reduce risks to businesses. It is worth mentioning that during FY2018-19, the government sacrificed income tax revenue of Rs 141 billion due to tax exemptions and concessions. Tax concessions and exemptions also give rise to a question of transparency in the fiscal policy as major beneficiaries of such concessions and exemptions have rarely been published. They also complicate taxation system, forcing tax authorities to put additional resources to prevent



misuse of tax concessions and exemptions.

Broadening tax base

Narrow tax base in terms of tax return filers remains the main concern for the FBR. Despite massive changes in the tax policy in the recent past, such as differential withholding tax rates for filers and non-filers and active taxable persons and non-active taxable persons, the recently-released data of the FBR has shown 2.34 million tax return filers by January 31, 2020. Although there is 40pc increase in tax return filers over the same period last year, but the number is not capable to be overjoyed keeping in view the potential pool of the taxable persons in the country. To achieve neutrality, efficiency and progressivity, it is imperative that a tax system has a broad base; having all taxable persons in its net.

Facilitating taxpayers

Last but not least, facilitation of the taxable persons and ease of doing business are important policy areas from economic viewpoint. Investors largely assess jurisdictions on these parameters before undertaking investments. Empirically better doing business ranking is found significantly associated with larger foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows. Importantly, Pakistan's ranking on the ease of doing business index has improved from 136 in 2019 to 108 in 2020. However, to stimulate business activity and to attract more FDI inflows, Pakistan has to further improve its position on ease of doing business index especially by making tax procedures and tax payments easier and business-friendly. ■

The writer serves as Additional Director Intelligence & Investigation (Inland Revenue) at the FBR.

Horizontal and Vertical Equity

• Horizontal equity

- Equal treatment of equals
- Equity within/ among groups (i.e., within the school district)

• Vertical equity

- Unequal treatment of unequals
- Equity between groups (i.e., between basic and special education students)



China-Pakistan

Nuclear Energy Cooperation

Ashma Khalid

Pakistan's looming economic crisis has only been worsened by an energy shortfall. Due to a lack of capacity in Pakistan's electrical grid and the inefficient use of the available energy, Pakistan lost an average of USD \$9.38 million per year in economic production from 2012 to 2017. Most of Pakistan's current electricity generation is reliant on oil and natural gas, which has led Pakistan to become heavily dependent on energy imports.

At a time when Pakistan is looking to reduce its dependence on these types of fossil fuels, nuclear energy—in addition to hydropower and other renewables—provides Pakistan with a clean, alternative energy source. Currently nuclear energy accounts for just 6.81 percent of Pakistan's total energy mix (the combination of energy resources used for power generation), contributing 1,318 megawatts of electricity to the national grid. Pakistan seeks to resolve its energy crisis through collaboration with China, which has been Pakistan's historical partner in civil nuclear energy.

China-Pakistan Cooperation: History and Motives

Pakistan's nuclear energy program started in 1954, largely inspired by the then US President Dwight Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" speech in December 1953, in which he emphasized promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the

The role of nuclear energy in Pakistan's national energy mix is set to significantly increase in the coming years as the country seeks to scale-up nuclear power to meet the rising energy demands of a growing population. In the backdrop of falling domestic gas production, gradual closure of inefficient oil-based power plants, and nominal addition of renewable energy projects of solar, wind and bio-mass, the nuclear energy has assumed greater significance for Pakistan's future. Moreover, this energy is environmentally clean, affordable, reliable and sustainable, and thus ensures energy security at national level. Pakistan currently has five reactors with a total capacity of just over 1.3GW, but there are plans to expand this. Since 2013, Pakistan has pushed for a further 2.2GW of nuclear power with two new reactors, built with Chinese assistance, in Karachi. Although China has helped Pakistan in the nuclear energy sector as well, given the limitations facing Pakistan's civilian nuclear program, particularly paucity of funds and the discrimination by the Western powers in allowing access to nuclear technology, the way forward is in developing self-sufficiency and expanding cooperation with China.

field of agriculture, medicine and electricity generation. By 1959, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) had signed an agreement with Canadian General Electric Company for the construction of a 137 megawatt electrical (MWe) nuclear reactor in Karachi. The Karachi Nuclear Power Plant-1 (KANUPP-1 or K-1) started commercial operations in 1972 under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) facility-specific safeguards. However, after India's "peaceful nuclear explosion" in 1974, using plutonium from a Canadian-supplied CIRUS reactor, Canada began only selling nuclear technology to nations that had signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or accepted full-scope safeguards—safeguards which allow the IAEA to inspect both civil and military nuclear facilities. After India refused to meet these conditions, Pakistan also followed the suit, which led Canada to terminate its nuclear energy cooperation with both New Delhi and Islamabad in 1976.

China's assistance in Pakistan's civil nuclear energy program began in earnest in the late 1970s. Originating in the strategic cooperation that began between the two countries in the 1960s, civil nuclear energy cooperation was driven by economic and geostrategic factors. While Islamabad sought assistance to build its fledgling nuclear energy program to address the nationwide electricity shortages, Beijing desired to cultivate Pakistan as a strategic partner in South Asia as part of its regional balance of power strategy vis-à-vis India.

Since the two countries began cooperating on civil nuclear energy, China has played a significant role in helping Pakistan develop its nuclear energy technology, by assisting it in the construction of nuclear power plants. In September 1986, China and Pakistan signed an agreement to facilitate the transfer of civil nuclear technology. Under the deal, China agreed to provide Pakistan with power reactors and a variety of nuclear related products and services, such as research and technical support for uranium enrichment. Not only has this agreement played an important role in Pakistan's economic development by enhancing industrial and technological capacity, but it has also helped to bridge the gap between Pakistan's energy requirements and availability.

Following the 1986 deal, China agreed in 1991 to supply Pakistan with its indigenously developed Qinshan-1 nuclear power plant. Construction on Chashma Nuclear Power Plant-1 (CHASNUPP-1 or C-1) began in 1993, and the 300 MWe reactor became operational in May 2000. In 2005, Pakistan announced that it would begin constructing second 300 MWe power plant at Chashma, C-2, which went critical in 2011.



To further reduce the gap in supply and demand chain of energy, the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and PAEC agreed to build two more nuclear reactors at the Chashma site. The two new reactors, C-3 and C-4, have a net capacity of 315 MWe and have been functional since 2016 and 2017, respectively. Some analysts have argued that this expansion of China-Pakistan nuclear cooperation, which led to the construction on C-3 and C-4, was in response to the 2008 US-India civil nuclear agreement. As a result of the U.S.-India nuclear deal, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) issued an India-specific waiver for the transfer of civilian nuclear technology. In this context, Pakistan was critical of the deal, arguing that the exclusive waiver was discriminatory and destabilizing for South Asia. Believing that it has enforced high level of legislative and regulatory frameworks and institutional mechanisms for nuclear safety and security, Pakistan also sought international cooperation in its civil nuclear energy program. To Islamabad, the two new reactors were a way for Pakistan to fulfil its energy needs.

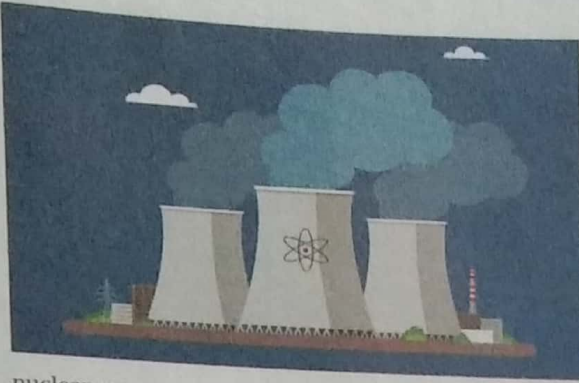
In 2013, China and Pakistan announced the construction of two more nuclear power plants at Karachi—Karachi Nuclear Power Plant-2 (K-2) and Karachi Nuclear Power Plant-3 (K-3)—each with a net capacity of 1,014 MWe. Construction of both units (K-2 and K-3) is ongoing, but the two units are scheduled to be operational by 2020 and 2021, respectively. The current energy capacity of the five operational nuclear power plants (K-1, C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4) is 1,318 MWe.

With the addition of K-2 and K-3, it is expected that Pakistan will be producing 3,346 MWe of nuclear energy by 2022.

Debate over NSG Trade Guidelines

The NSG comprises forty-eight participating governments that regulate nuclear and nuclear-related exports to ensure the adherence to the principle of non-proliferation laid out by the NPT. As such, the group requires that for a state to be sold nuclear technology by a member of the NSG, the nation must be a party to the NPT and place its nuclear activities under full-scope safeguards. China joined the NSG in 2004 and Pakistan desires to become an NSG member.

The NSG agrees that China's supply of the C-1 and C-2 nuclear reactors to Pakistan before China joined the NSG is not subject to the NSG's trade guidelines. However, according to some accounts, a few NSG members have raised concerns over China's cooperation with Pakistan in constructing additional reactors. Therefore, the announcement that China would supply Pakistan with two additional reactors in 2010 and two more in 2013, led some members of the NSG to argue that China was violating the NSG's trade guidelines by continuing to sell




nuclear reactors to Pakistan. The NSG's argument rests on two factors. One, China reportedly did not detail any additional commitments to sell more reactors to Pakistan when it first joined the NSG in 2004. And second, a new clarification in the NSG's rules in 2006 required all member states to provide documented evidence for future claims under the grandfathered clause. Since this change, it is maintained by some NSG participating states that China has not provided the NSG with documentary evidence on why the new reactors should be grandfathered in.

China and Pakistan have maintained that the new nuclear reactors are an extension of the nuclear agreement signed in 1986 before China's adherence to the NSG. The two nations argue that the latest units at Chashma and Karachi are grandfathered in by the previous nuclear agreement, remain under IAEA safeguards, and therefore are not contrary to the NSG rules and regulations. With respect to additional commitments, China stated in 2011 that while giving documented evidence as to the grandfathered nature of the new reactors in 2004, it had informed the IAEA under the Additional Protocol about its future civil nuclear cooperation with Pakistan. By taking such legal measures, China and Pakistan argue that the new reactors do not violate non-proliferation obligations, since those are under

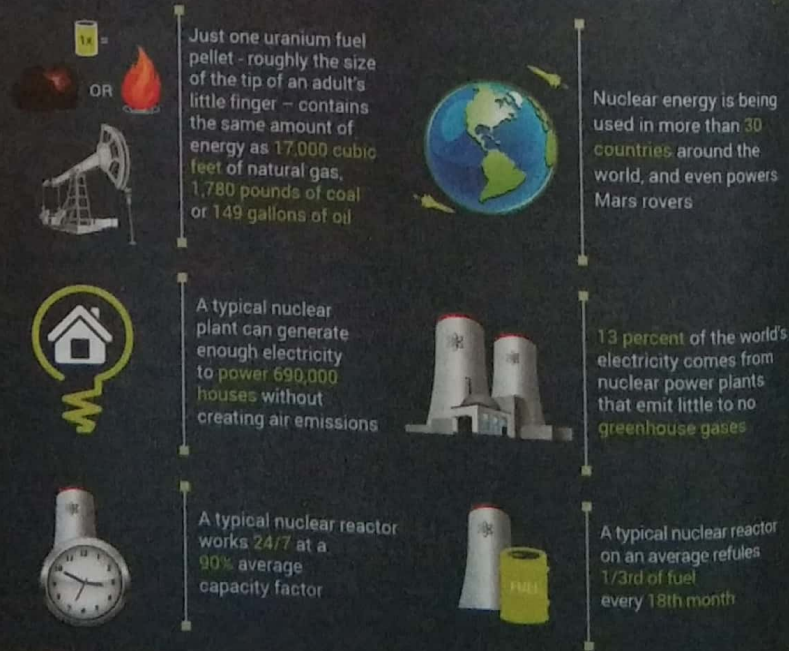
facility-specific IAEA safeguards and only intended for civilian use.

The Future of Cooperation

In a continuing effort to overcome the growing energy crisis and consequent economic woes, Pakistan is seeking to increase the contribution of nuclear energy and other renewable energy sources to its total energy mix. By 2030, Pakistan aims to generate 8,800 MWe from nuclear energy, which would have nuclear energy account for 20 percent of Pakistan's total energy. In order to achieve this, China and Pakistan agreed, in November 2017, to build a fifth nuclear power plant at Chashma (C-5). Although construction has yet to begin on C-5, the new reactor is anticipated to add an additional 1,000 megawatts of electricity to the national grid upon completion. Despite nuclear energy currently making up a small portion of Pakistan's total energy mix, expanding Pakistan's nuclear energy generation capacity and pairing it with other renewable sources of energy could not only help Pakistan alleviate its energy crisis but also will produce a positive impact on the climate. 

Courtesy: South Asian Voices

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT NUCLEAR REACTORS



Most of the people confuse climate change with global warming and assume that both are the same. In fact, global warming constitutes just one aspect of climate change, as global warming means rise in global average temperature, whereas climate change entails global warming, air pollution and other such things.

Despite the evidence and explanations provided through scientific research, there are people who are of the opinion that climate change is not real; they call it a hoax. Their refusal to accept it is nothing but the denial of the stark fact. There have been numerous things observed which allay suspicion about climate change. More prominently, rise in global average temperature, also called global warming, confirms this assumption. NASA, showing the evidence for climate change, posted to its official website: "The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit (0.9 degree Celsius) since the late 19th century." In addition, global warming has caused oceans to absorb the heat—coming in the form of sunlight. Data from various research studies show that since 1969, surface of oceans, up to 700 metres deep, have warmed up about 0.4 degree Fahrenheit.

Moreover, global sea level rise attests to the fact that the climate is going through changes. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a United Nations body for assessing research on climate change, in its fifth assessment report shows that global mean sea level has risen about 0.19 metres. Besides, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and decreased snow cover are the other things which substantiate the evidence for climate change. Oceans have increased acidity due to the increased uptake of CO₂. IPCC's fifth assessment report says: "pH of ocean surface water has decreased by 0.1 (high confidence), corresponding to 26% increase in acidity".

All of the observed changes are anthropogenic, i.e. human-induced. The fundamental things which are driving climate change are greenhouse gases and aerosols in Earth's atmosphere. Aerosols are tiny particles floating in the atmosphere that are released through both natural and anthropogenic processes. Aerosols can be dust particles, minute droplets and tiny bits of carbon and other such things. They collect in the atmosphere through natural and human sources. Dust, for example, comes from dry lands, deserts and dried-out river banks. Carbon particles are shot into the atmosphere when volcanoes erupt explosively. Anthropogenic activities contribute to the atmospheric aerosol amount in many ways. For instance, fossil fuel burning, besides greenhouse gases, produces carbonaceous particles. Major Manmade aerosols

CLIMATE CHANGE

Causes, effects, evidence and how to deal with it

Climate means average weather pattern of a particular area over a long period of time – at least thirty years—while climate change refers to the long-term shift in global average weather patterns, i.e. changes in temperature, precipitation and rainfall patterns. These changes in climate are directly or indirectly induced by human activities such as expansion of greenhouse gas emissions, land use, deforestation and degradation of forests. The changes are transpiring irrespective of any region, country or continent, and will have global impacts. Both developing and developed countries are vulnerable to the wide-ranging consequences of climate change. Everyone in the world is going to be affected by it. Ban Ki-moon, who served as the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, once talking about the climate change said: "Climate change does not respect national borders."



(sulphates) are released into the atmosphere when tropical forests, coal, etc. are burned. Agriculture produces dust—when farmers plough the fields. Scientists are sure that their amount has increased since the Industrial Revolution began. Aerosols have influence on climate. Increase in their amount can either cool or warm up the planet. They alter the whole energy equilibrium of the Earth as they float in the atmosphere. In addition, they pollute air and do harm to ozone layer. Greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere from fossil fuel burning, land use, irrigated agriculture, animal husbandry, oil extraction and deforestation. All of these activities are anthropogenic and add to the atmospheric greenhouse effect. Presence of these gases in Earth's atmosphere is responsible for its suitability for life. If these gases had not been present, it would not have been possible for any organism to live on Earth. Like their decrease, extreme increase in their amount is harmful for life, because this leads to greenhouse effect. Greenhouse effect is a natural process that warms the surface of the Earth. The Earth gets its energy from the sun. When sunlight reaches the Earth, some of it is reflected back into space and the rest is absorbed by the land and oceans. The absorbed heat is radiated back into space, but greenhouse gases trap it and reradiate it towards Earth, thereby causing it to warm up. As greenhouse gases are collecting in the atmosphere, the greenhouse effect is increasing and bringing about global warming. Greenhouse gases comprise CO_2 , methane, nitrous oxide, water vapour and chlorofluorocarbons. carbon dioxide, the most long-lived forcing of climate change, is released into the atmosphere mostly because of fossil fuel burning, e.g. coal and oil. It is a small component of the atmosphere, as it makes less than 0.5% of the total atmospheric gases, but it is of great significance. Increase in its amount is going to be catastrophic for all life on Earth. Research shows that its concentration has increased since the Industrial Revolution began. NASA says that the concentration of CO_2 in Earth's atmosphere is currently at nearly 414 parts per million (ppm), and rising. This represents a 48 percent increase since the Industrial Revolution began, when the concentration was around 280 ppm. Methane, also called natural gas, is a hydrocarbon gas and is released through both natural and anthropogenic ways; these include agriculture, decomposition of wastes in landfills and manure management. In agriculture, rice cultivation is responsible for methane release. Nitrous oxide is produced from both natural and human sources and its

concentration has increased by 16% since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. Anthropogenic sources such as agriculture and combustion of biomass and fossil fuels are responsible for its emissions besides natural sources like volcanoes.

Climate change will affect every aspect of life, including agriculture, water resources, forests, biodiversity, sea level, coastal areas and human health. But the prominent and challenging effect of it is the depletion of ozone layer. Ozone layer protects life from ultraviolet rays. Increase in atmospheric CFCs is triggering ozone depletion. When ultraviolet rays from the sun hit CFCs in the stratosphere, carbon-chlorine bonds break, resulting in free chlorine atoms. The chlorine atoms react with ozone molecule, (O_3) which leads to the destruction of ozone layer.

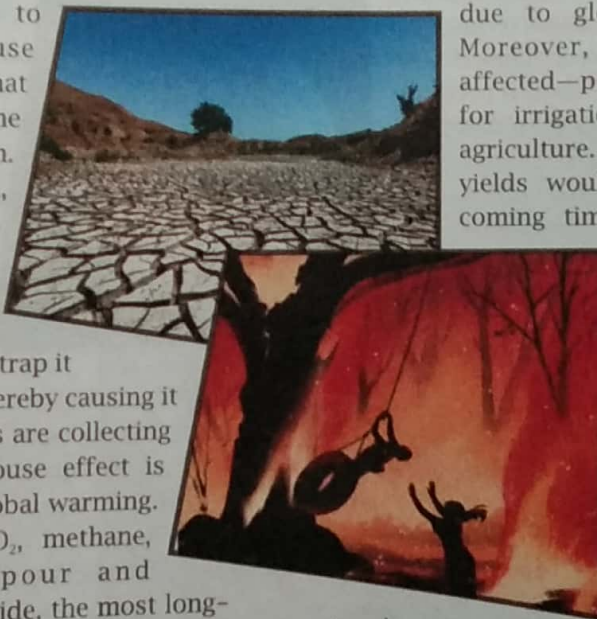
In agriculture, it is likely that food-growing regions will change in the future. Regions where crops, such as rice, do not grow because of cold climate will become cultivable

due to global warming and vice versa. Moreover, crop yields would also be affected—pests, crop diseases and demands for irrigation would pose a challenge to agriculture. Scientists have predicted that crop yields would decrease significantly in the coming times. Climate change would also

disrupt forest economy and cause modifications in natural forests. Some of them might disappear owing to increasing bushfires from drying and loss of humidity. Forests act both as a cause and solution for climate change. Changes in their location and disappearance would affect biodiversity. Some of the species that inhabit

tropic al forests run the risk of extinction. Further, increase in temperature and air pollution will have bearings on water resources. It may lead to either drought or flooding, both of which are not in the interest of human beings. Water quality is likely to be affected as well. Besides the effects mentioned, coastal areas are on the line as sea levels are rising. This effect would disrupt life on a large scale, as most of the metropolitan cities of the world lie around coastal regions.

All of the mentioned impacts, thus far, will have negative implications for human life. Rise in temperature, disruption in agriculture, changes in water resources, disappearance of forests, immersion of coastal areas and other factors will stimulate migration and will also affect food security, human health and global economy. People will migrate to areas where they could find sustenance. Migration will breed the problems of employment and



housing. Subsequently, these problems will lead to crimes —thefts, robberies and even killings. In the future, it might be impossible for agriculture to meet the demands of people, for crop yield is declining and contrary to this, human population is rising. Human health will be affected; global warming will precipitate heat waves, thereby leading to increase in mortality. Certain diseases, such as vector-borne malaria and dengue will escalate and spread to temperate areas. Besides this, climate change poses a big threat to global economy.

There are two ways to tackle climate change: mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation - reducing climate change - entails reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and promoting renewable energy sources. This objective can be achieved by reducing the sources that emit heat-trapping gases and enhancing the sinks that accumulate these gases. In order to reduce the sources that emit them, we need to cut fossil fuel burning by limiting the usage of transportation, heat and electricity in our daily lives. Every single person in the world has a part to play. We should prefer to use public transport instead of driving our own cars, and should use them occasionally, if necessary. We should also avoid the unnecessary use of electrical appliances such as light bulbs. On the surface, this might seem ridiculous and may not make sense to an ordinary man. It is likely that he/she has a question on his/her mind that how can this stop the unavoidable climate change. In fact, we are all contributing to it as an individual. Though, this effort cannot stop climate change altogether, it will certainly slow down it. We can also control the amounts of greenhouse emissions by promoting sinks - afforestation, as trees play a pivotal role in controlling the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Mangrove trees, for example, are one of the best sinks to store carbon. They can store it four times more than rainforest trees do. It is estimated that 50 mangrove trees can absorb about 1 metric ton of carbon dioxide. Furthermore, promotion of renewable energy sources will be helpful in mitigating climate change, for it is clean and does not involve combustion or anything like that. It is derived from natural sources, for example solar energy is generated from the sunlight; wind energy from wind and hydropower from water.

After mitigation, adaptation is another thing which can assist in curbing climate change. By adaptation, I refer to the anticipation of adverse effects of climate change and adjusting to expected climate by taking practical actions.

We need to observe the changes that have taken place, plan things and take action accordingly. We need to build defence system against natural disasters. We should use already scarce water resources more efficiently and raise the dykes of rivers which might overflow because of glaciers that are melting at faster pace. In the end, raising general awareness about the implications of climate change will also be helpful and it is a responsibility of everyone who is well aware of it to further this noble cause among the masses about the impacts of climate change. It is a battle, which we will not be able to win, if the ordinary people stay away from it.

Climate change implies changes in global weather patterns—changes in temperature, precipitation and rainfall patterns. These changes are happening regardless of region, community, country or continent and are likely to affect every human being living on this planet.

In the last fifty years, some of the changes as forecast by earlier scientists, have started to take place, which can be used as a proof that climate changes is real. The observed changes include rise in global temperature, i.e. global warming, global mean sea level rise, shrinking ice sheets and glacial retreat to name a few. The changes will increase in severity in the near future

and will have impacts on life. They pose many threats to it and can disrupt it terribly. The major threats, which climate change is likely to bring about are: extinction of certain species, depletion of ozone layer, removal of and modifications in the locations of tropical forests, decrease in yields in agriculture sector and for humans, food security and human health are on the line. The cardinal cause of these changes, as scientists believe, are human beings themselves. Humans increased

greenhouse gas emissions and amount of aerosols in the atmosphere. Increase in their amount is precipitating climate change. Therefore, in order to tackle climate change we need to cut emissions of greenhouse gases; promote renewable energy sources and take other preventive measures. Switching from non-renewable energy sources to renewable ones is the only thing which can help us halt climate change. For this purpose, there have been so many agencies working on it at regional, national and international level, but they will not be effective unless we cooperate and play our part. Therefore, it is high time we did something to halt it and secure the future of coming generations; pass on to them an intact and habitable world. ■



Nature has blessed Pakistan with enormous renewable energy potential which can be utilized for power generation and to meet energy needs of the country. Alternative and Renewable Energy (ARE) promises a higher proportion of the national energy supply mix, which currently consists of 64 percent fossil fuels, 27 percent hydropower, 5 percent nuclear power and 4 percent renewable sources of energy, and helps ensure universal and affordable access to electricity in all regions of the country. That is why AREs have seen significant growth in different parts of the world in the last decade in terms of deployment, technological advancements and cost competitiveness. Realising this reality, the federal government announced, in November 2019, its Alternative and Renewable Energy Development Policy, 2019. It has an expanded scope, encompassing all alternative and renewable energy sources, competitive procurement and also addresses areas like distributed generation systems, off-grid solutions, B2B methodologies, and rural energy services. The said policy aims to have 30 percent renewable energy in system by 2030 and combined with hydropower, it will be 60 to 65 percent of the energy mix. ARE Policy 2019 foresees the replacement of expensive thermal power with relatively cleaner and cheaper renewables.

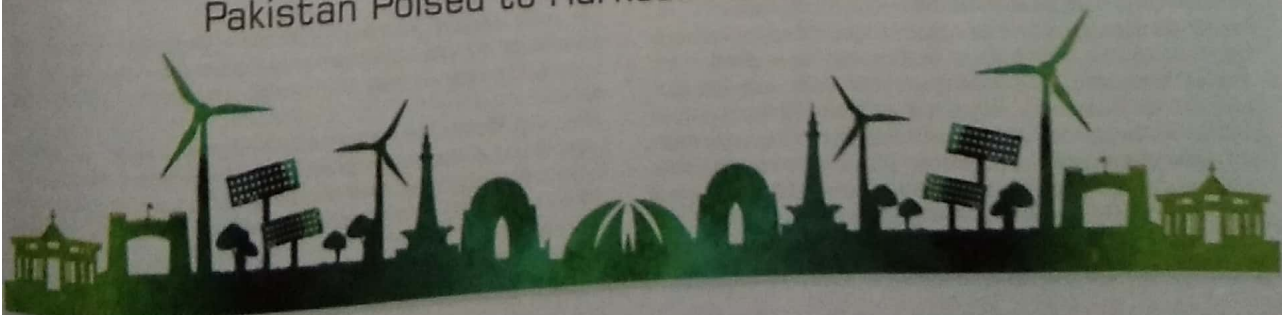
Energy policies are important instruments that governments use to guide and influence the participation and behaviours of different actors in the energy-sector activities to achieve their desired objectives and goals. While efficacy, efficiency, costs and benefits are important considerations in energy policy formulation, continuity of policies is also a key factor in gaining and sustaining confidence of potential investors. This is critical because energy and power sector investments are capital-intensive and high-risk ventures; once set into motion, these are difficult as well as very costly to roll back. Policies, however, are not something set in stone that cannot be altered or changed. Numerous developments in the technology and market can render the existing policies less useful, thus necessitating periodic review and revision to ensure their continued effectiveness and currency. But governments always prefer to use an incremental and evolutionary approach when introducing reforms in their previous policies in order not to shake the trust and confidence of the stakeholders who are expected to be affected by these revisions or modifications.

Pakistan had introduced a Renewable Energy Policy during 2006 to promote the uptake of renewable energy technologies (RETs) in the country by introducing a number of incentives and safeguards for potential investors. As a result of this policy initiative, roughly 2,000 MW of renewable energy generation (mostly solar



Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy, 2019

Pakistan Poised to Harness Nature's Bounties



PV and wind power) was added to the national grid during the past 14 years, and a number of additional projects are currently in the pipeline. Things were moving smoothly until the government had a change of heart and decided to repeal the previous policy and introduce in its place a completely new policy—Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy, 2019.

In the ensuing paragraphs, a few of the apparent deficiencies and ambiguities in the new policy are highlighted for the attention of our high-ups in the energy sector with a hope that they will seriously look into these deficiencies and loopholes and address these adequately.

The draft sets capacity targets of 20 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030 without specifying the basis of these targets. This is disturbing for three reasons: First, the RETs' grid penetration is more meaningful if it's specified as a proportion of peak demand, and not that of the capacity base of which it will be a part, and thus a variable itself. Targets must also base on rigorous assessment of energy and power demands in various parts of the country, availability and distribution of resources, presence of hosting infrastructure (T&D systems), and supporting facilities in these areas. Second, the draft disregards the capacity aspect of RETs and justifies their inclusion in the grid entirely for their potential to reduce the basket price of

electricity. Fair enough, but then the RETs penetration level should also be specified as a proportion of energy, and not that of the installed capacity. Third, the draft does not specify the share of different RETs within the specified targets or various regions. This lack of clarity will lead to many problems during implementation.

Realizing the full potential of RETs requires that their development and deployment in the country be sought not just in the power sector but also in other sectors of the economy, and in all possible forms in which these technologies can contribute to serve different energy service needs of these sectors. These include, for instance, direct use, production of other energy carriers like bio and synthetic fuels, process of heating and cooling, etc., and not just through electricity-generation alone.

A fair and objective comparison demands that full avoided costs (generation, transmission, distribution, and delivery) due to ARE deployment in the grid should be considered in serving the consumers demand, and not just their costs at the generation plant terminals. System integration issues, and impacts on the power system (capacity backup, flexibility, additional stress on the system, etc.) and the associated costs that RETs will impose owing to their intermittent and variable nature must also be considered to make an objective and fair cost-benefit assessment.

ARE Policy 2019: An Analysis of Main Features

The Alternative and Renewable Energy (ARE) Policy, 2019, aims to create an environment that is conducive for the sustainable growth of the ARE sector in Pakistan in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal number 7, namely the provision of clean and affordable energy for all.

It has an expanded scope encompassing all renewable energy sources, i.e. wind, solar (PV/Thermal), biomass, geothermal, ocean/tidal wave energy, storage technologies, waste to energy, hydrogen production and hybrids of any of these.

The policy envisions to have 20 percent of the generation capacity from ARE technologies by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030.

Another objective of the policy is to lower the average basket cost of generation in Pakistan. Therefore, the need for capacity addition is not the only driver. The displacement of more expensive fossil energy with cheaper and cleaner renewable energy will be the other driver.

The third objective of the policy is promoting indigenization of energy resources and development of local manufacturing capabilities.

The following types of projects are enlisted in the policy for dedicated production and sale of power; federal entity sale-purchase, provincial level arrangement, federal-province arrangement, captive power, business to business projects and unsolicited projects.

The present policy will determine tariffs through an open bidding process using lowest evaluated tariff as the main determinant.

Projects under the policy will be exempt from corporate income tax, and currently enjoy waiver on customs duty on the import of equipment/machinery not manufactured locally to be installed in renewable energy projects.

Since Pakistan is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement that allows accessing global carbon crediting markets, environment and climate funds and other global financing options for projects under mitigation, adaptation and a combination thereof, Alternate Energy Development Board (AEDB) may also facilitate the ARE project developers in trading carbon credits in the international carbon market and help DNA/NDAs in creating a national carbon credits trading scheme. The revenues generated through the sale of carbon credits will be exempted from income tax or duty.

Renewable energy is inherently intermittent in nature, which presents some

technical challenges to weaker grids like Pakistan. In order to deal with these challenges, ARE projects connecting to the grid shall be required to have certain basic equipment to support grid stability.

Secondly, NTDC will be tasked to be an integral part of the procurement process such that it can plan to strengthen the grid to handle intermittent operation in real time. This applies to wind and solar, however biomass plants or storage technologies do not pose the variability problem.

Flaws

The ARE Policy 2019 is a power-specific policy; it somehow overlooks the transport sector which consumes approximately 17 percent of total primary energy requirements of the country.

A comprehensive ARE policy must include the commuting sector. Long-range driving, on-road trucking, aviation and marine do not run on electric power and require fossil fuels for their transport.

Although storage technologies included in the policy cater for electric energy for commuting, it is currently quite limited and requires battery charging from the main grid which predominately runs on fossil fuel.

The policy also omits heat-generation from renewables (thermal sector). Thermal energy is costly but imperative for both industrial and domestic sectors. Solar, thermal, biomass and biofuels may be employed to generate heat at a local level, or via thermal micro-grids supplying pipeline gas to homes and offices. The policy presumably delegates fuel cells to the league of unsolicited projects. Fuel cells carry the potential of producing smoke-free electricity and thermal energy.

The policy mentions promoting indigenization of energy resources and development of local manufacturing capabilities in renewable energy equipment. However, a framework or roadmap is not laid down to achieve this objective.

ARE 2019 foresees the replacement of expensive thermal power with relatively cleaner and cheaper renewables. However, an exit strategy is not prescribed to retire thermal power plants, especially when most of the thermal IPPs are operating under long-term agreements often with sovereign guarantees.

Finally, research and development strategy has been ignored.

Uncertainty and variability will be an inherent feature of RETs. As such, external efforts to counter that feature will be needed, and may impose significant costs on the grid. In this regard, storage technologies (utility-scale as well as those behind-the-consumer metres) can play a critical role in promoting ARETs, and thus will require special considerations in the Policy. The current draft lacks this emphasis and related concessions or incentives.

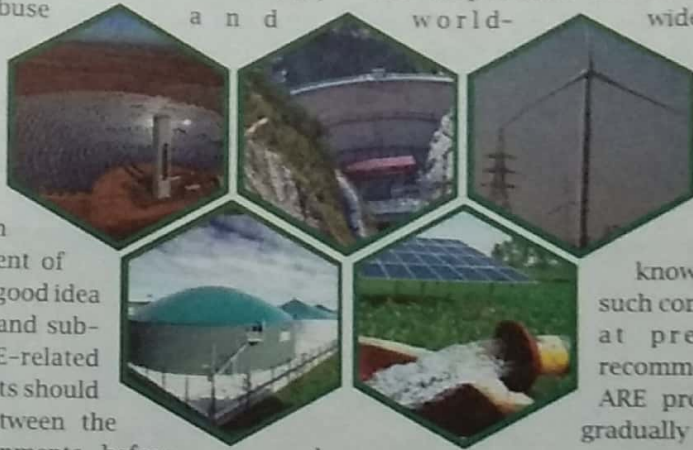
The policy introduces a completely new class of ARE project developers, i.e. government- to-government (G2G), and keeps them out of the competitive bidding loop that is required for the other classes of developers. The Policy also allows the G2G sponsors a cost-plus tariff for their projects. This is not a good idea and must be avoided. Competitive selection for all projects should be preferred; otherwise, it would lead to abuse and complications during selection, development and execution of ARE projects.

In the Policy, references are made about the provinces' right to develop renewable power- generation projects in their jurisdictions, independent of the national grid. This is not a good idea and could lead to confusion and sub-optimal solutions. All ARE-related developments and deployments should be centrally coordinated between the federal and provincial governments, before soliciting bids from potential investors and developers. Working out of a ten-year system development plan for this purpose is recommended so as to indicate the requirements of generation (including ARETs), transmission and

distribution facilities and their preferred locations in the country.

The policy bounds the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and DISCOs to purchase all the energy generated by the ARE plants. Such mandates, if enforced without assessing their proper technical and financial implications, can be troublesome for these entities. Grid-impact studies must be carried out to ascertain whether the existing systems have sufficient available capacity to accommodate the new project or it would require augmentation. This obligation should be linked to carrying out "grid impact studies," that will reveal the technical and economic viability of the project in question. Approvals should not be decided arbitrarily or on discretionary basis.

An important consideration of energy policies wide is their impact on local industrial development and employment. Efforts are always made to gradually eliminate a nation's dependence on foreign technologies and expertise, and promote local industry, knowhow, and employment. No such consideration is seen in the policy at present. Therefore, it is recommended that the developers of ARE projects be obligated to use a gradually increasing proportion of local components and employing of local labour to promote local manufacturing industry and employment. Such concessions and incentives should also ensure that they do not stifle development of local industry. ■



Objectives of Policy

The long-term integrated energy plan of Pakistan envisages four guiding principles: sustainability, affordability, responsibility (of use) and availability. The ARE Policy, as a component of the overall plan, has a vision of the development of an efficient, sustainable, secure, affordable, competitive and environment-friendly power system while promoting indigenization of energy resources and development of local manufacturing capabilities in such technologies.

The main objectives of the ARET 2019 are:

- To safeguard the environment by increasing the share of "green" energy in the overall energy mix
- To provide the least cost power generation while keeping other constraints in mind
- To ensure fast track and transparent development of ARET power projects
- To encourage and ensure utilization of indigenous resources
- To encourage private sector investment while securing competitive rates of return

Specific targets are being set under this Policy and may be amended from time-to-time through executive action rather than Policy amendment. Presently, the GOP has set the target of at least [20 percent] renewable energy generation by capacity by year 2025 and at least [30 percent] by 2030 (20X25 and 30X30 target). In order to achieve these targets, the GOP will procure a larger percentage of new capacity from ARE Policy 2019, keeping in mind

constraints of base load versus variable generation requirements and the hybrid solutions of ARET that are nearing base load capacity factors.

Types of Projects

This policy covers projects for Renewable Energy as well as Alternate Energy Technologies, as follows:

- Biomass (including but not limited to bagasse, agricultural waste, and other waste)
- Geothermal
- Ocean/Tidal Wave energy
- Solar (PV or Thermal, or any technology that uses heat and/or light of the sun to make electricity)
- Wind
- Storage Technologies (Battery systems, Cells of all types, compressed gas, pumped storage)
- Biogas using any organic material (except fossil fuels)
- Energy from Waste (including but not limited to municipal solid waste, industrial waste, sewage, Refuse Derived Fuel).
- Hydrogen or Synthetic Gas (made from any source except fossil fuels)
- Hybrids of any of the above Technologies

The Policy shall also cover projects of retrofitting of existing solar and wind projects to convert them into hybrid units. Any technology not identified above but determined by the AEDB to be Renewable Energy or Alternative Energy Technology shall also be included, from time to time.

We were never prepared for the pandemic of this magnitude. In pre-coronavirus era, almost 90 percent poor of the country were served by philanthropists from the private sector. There is no documented account of which segment contributed more. In fact, the philanthropic activities of the corporate sector were concentrated more on education, environment and health sectors.

It was the middle class, and that includes both upper and middle, which was more active in addressing the wants of the poor. Our statistics on poverty always belie the ground reality.

Our planners think that a family managing its monthly budget on the minimum salary of Rs17,000 per month does not fall among poor. The average family size in Pakistan is 6.5 persons.

The average family size of the affluent is much less and that of poor is much higher. Even at average family size of 6.5 percent, Rs17,000 monthly income means that average share of each family member comes to Rs2,615.

clothing of the members of the affluent families that saved them some money.

After lockdown, everything is blocked. The minimum wage earner is not going to his/her office and is not sure if the salary for April would be paid by the mills or offices where he/she worked. They were mostly working in small and medium enterprises that did not have reserves build-up to cope with the current crisis. In fact, these enterprises consumed most of their extra fat during the last 18 months of economic meltdown. They are not in a position to cope with the atrophy caused by the coronavirus. Even the top businessmen, having billions in reserves, have told the government that they would pay at the most one month's salary from their resources when every business is closed.

After that the government would have to pitch in with their aid. In such a scenario, the earnings of minimum wage earners are under a cloud.

At the same time, most of the maids or house servants have been asked by households not to come to work. Some have been assured of their wage and some not.

The supply of food they used to get from these households



Drawbacks of Poor Governance

Situation on the economic front has worsened for the poor, as they have no clue where to look for relief. Few lucky people do get food rations from private donors, but there is no official capacity to reach even 10 percent of the needy.

This amount cannot even cover the daily nutrition needed to keep an individual healthy. From the minimum wage, most of those who come from rural areas to cities have to rent a place to live in.

They have to bear the fuel, electricity, water and kitchen charges plus some amount for public transport. From this minimum wage, they have to make provision for educational expenses of the children as well as health needs of the family, including that of the old members of the family that regularly need medicine.

The workers drawing minimum wages are looked after by the society. Most of them live in slums around affluent and posh residential localities. Their women and children (most of whom do not go to school) are employed in these residences at paltry salaries. Even after doing cleaning and washing work in three houses, they hardly earn Rs9,000 a month. However, most of the residents do give them food. Women, used to take food from these houses, feed their other members of the family. They are also used to getting used

has also been suspended. These families are having nightmares as to how they would manage if the lockdown prolonged which in all likelihood would continue.

These salaried persons are not on the radar of the state planners. They are stuck up on the daily wagers only. There too the data is insufficient and unreliable. Poor are feeling the pinch after the lockdown.

Even during normal times, the employed class used to exhaust all its resources in the last week of every month. Now, the next month has arrived and they have no idea when their salaries will be disbursed or whether the employers would pay any salary at all.

They urgently need food. They have no resources to buy food, prices of which are increasing. There is no viable plan for distribution of ration at the official level.

There are sporadic exercises that are far from enough. In situations like these, prudent rulers burn their midnight oil to find quick solutions. In our case, we are playing to the gallery through frequent media briefings, repeating the same stuff every time. ■

Last year in March, the United Nations issued its assessment of the global environment in the form of the sixth Global Environmental Outlook, a 708-page compendium of the planet's ailments. The scientific team that conducted the assessment warned that the Earth's condition has continued to deteriorate since the first global outlook was prepared in 1997 and "urgent action at an unprecedented scale is necessary to arrest and reverse this situation."

Joyce Msuya, acting executive director of UN Environment, said, "The planet stands at a crossroads: the Earth's ailments are treatable, but not for a lot longer if people don't make fundamental changes in what they consume, how they create energy, dispose of waste, and generally decrease the human footprint that is degrading air, water and land."

The traditional means and methods used to achieve ambitious economic goals driven by profit maximisation, particularly in emerging economies, is simply not ecologically sustainable. Climate change is no longer an approaching threat; it has become a real one, resulting in climate-induced disasters such as floods, droughts, earthquakes, hurricanes, severe rainfalls, wildfires, haze, typhoons and extreme hot and cold weathers at a scale and scope the world has never seen before. The urgency of environmental protection has become so intense that the United Nations secretary remarked in his speech at the 2018 Climate Change Conference that it has become "an issue of life and death for humans, regions and countries."

Consequently, the United Nations initiated the United Nations Environmental Programme to identify policy options in order to ensure environmental targets set forth under the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol are met. The G20 created the Green Finance Study Group for the promotion of green investment among member countries and the International Finance Corporation, in coordination with the World Bank Group, established the Sustainable Banking Network (SBN) to provide a platform to financial regulators of emerging countries, including Pakistan. Their purpose is the development of



Environmental Protection

The Path towards Sustainability

Global Environmental Outlook 6

Key findings on Asia and the Pacific

The analysis of key environmental themes on air, land, biota and ecosystems, freshwater, coasts and oceans, and waste using drivers-pressures-state-impact-response (DPSIR) framework shows accelerating environmental degradation widely across the region and its impact on human well-being. Key findings of the Assessment are:

Air

Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions have reduced, but ambient concentrations of ozone and fine particles (shortlived climate pollutants (SLCPs) such as black carbon) have continued to increase. Trans-boundary smoke haze pollution, due to open biomass burning and improper land-use practices, is becoming the key regional air quality problem in Southeast Asia, and highlights the urgency of multilateral solutions and regional cooperation. Indoor air pollution from burning poor quality fuels or biomass, impacts women and children throughout the region contributing to health effects. Climate change impacts on cities and infrastructure have intensified in some coastal zones and Pacific island countries, while extreme climate events are becoming the major cause of disasters in the region.

Land

Land degradation has been intensified over most of the region, with consequent displacement of indigenous people, loss of biodiversity, and reduction in important forest products. Land degradation has additional implications for water resources in terms of soil water content and groundwater recharge. The total forest area has increased in some areas of Asia since 1990 due to reforestation efforts, but there are significant sub-regional differences. Meanwhile, there is continuous loss of wilderness, natural forest systems, mangroves and other natural systems to croplands and urban growth.

Biota and ecosystems

Ecosystems' integrity and biodiversity are threatened throughout the region due to extensive agriculture, oil palm and rubber plantations, aquaculture and illegal wildlife trade. Natural forest areas in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, recognized as global biodiversity hotspots, declined drastically in 1990–2015. The number of threatened mammal and plant species increased by more than 10 and 18 percent respectively in the last decade. Three-quarters of all threatened birds on oceanic islands are also in danger from invasive species. A quarter of all

conifers and cycad species are threatened, as are one-fifth of marine mammal species. In the oceanic countries and Small Island States, over 25 percent of hard warm-water corals are experiencing bleaching, mainly due to high thermal stress, and are impacted by dumping of plastic debris and micro-plastic hazardous waste in the oceans.

Freshwater

Water scarcity and deteriorating water quality are commonplace throughout the region, especially in Northeast and South Asia. As climate change impacts on water resources become more pronounced, particularly in rivers originating in the Hindu Kush and Himalayas, flood and drought events will become more frequent and intensified. Contamination of water sources from human and livestock sewage is a major concern across the region; and the widespread contamination of ground water by pharmaceutical and personal care products, nanomaterials, and organochlorides increase the exposure to human health risk, especially for women and young children. Water-related diseases and unsafe water contribute to 1.8 million deaths annually and 24.8 million disability-adjusted life years in the region.

Coasts and oceans

The coastal zone is inherently attractive for human settlement and continued urbanization draws in greater populations, with 325 million more people expected to live in the coastal zone by 2025. About 60 percent of the coastal mangroves in Asia and the Pacific have been cleared for development and more than 80 percent of the coral reefs are at risk. Severe erosion prevails on one-quarter to one-third of the coastlines in Southeast Asia. Pollution caused by plastic debris and microplastics is an increasing concern in the region.

Waste

Municipal solid waste generation is expected to rise from 870 million tonnes in 2014 to 1.4 billion tonnes annually by 2030 in the region. New and complex waste streams like e-waste, food waste, construction/demolition waste, disaster waste and marine litter are emerging. Uncontrolled dumping is still the main waste disposal method in the region, leading to leachate run off, methane emission, spontaneous combustion, and other environmental problems. However, recent emergence of waste-to-energy investment programs could be further enhanced to provide better waste disposal.

methods to mobilise capital to achieve national green and sustainable development targets.

In this context, environmental statistics shows that Pakistan is highly prone to climate change, wreaking havoc on people's livelihoods and causing fatalities. Pakistan was nearly at the bottom, ranking 169 out of 180 countries on the Environmental Performance Index presented at the World Economic Forum 2018, which was based on the progress of 24 indicators related to ecosystem health and vitality.

Likewise, Pakistan was among the top ten worst performing economies in the Country Sustainability Ranking 2019, which is developed by RobecoSAM and is based on a nation's progress in environmental, social and governance management. As per the global climate risk index 2020, prepared by GermanWatch, Pakistan was the 5th most affected country by climate-triggered

catastrophes during 1999–2018, resulting in a number of human fatalities and economic damages worth \$3.793 billion.

Therefore, following global initiatives, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) issued Green Banking Guidelines (GBGs) in 2017 to provide technical guidelines to financial institutions for risk management to reduce vulnerabilities stemming from a project's environmental risk exposure and to scale up green investment in Pakistan.

Green finance refers to the funding of investment projects that have sustainably positive environmental, social and economic impacts. Pakistan has abundant green opportunities in areas such as renewable energy, resource recycling, climate-smart agricultural production, clean transport green buildings, sustainable water and land management and hence is ripe for an advanced green financial market in Asia.

However, it faces a range of market, institutional and policy barriers that prevent scaling up of green capital flows. Availability of green capital is a key enabler to realise the multiple targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals and the agenda of Pakistan's Vision 2025.

Concerning Pakistan's policy progress on the promotion of green finance, SBN reports provide meaningful insights. Since 2018, the SBN has been using a progressive matrix (PM) to track the progress of member countries on green-policy adoption and actions.

The PM is based on three developmental stages — preparation, implementation and maturing — and each stage is split into two sub-stages. Pakistan is positioned at the developing phase of the implementation stage on SBN's progression matrix.

That matrix further highlighted that only China and Indonesia have reached the initial sub-stage of the maturing phase in the development cycle.

Though Pakistan has shown slight progress on developing the culture of green investment, it is still lagging behind other emerging Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam and Mongolia. After the development of green policy guidelines, the next step for the SBP is to chalk out regulatory and industry-led policy interventions for bringing about behavioural change among top

financial managers working in the banking sector.

The establishment of monitoring and supervisory mechanisms to ensure systematic implementation of GBGs, initiation of a regime of mandatory reporting of green investment portfolios in annual reports, launching specially designed training and development programmes to enhance capacity building of banking staff to enable them to carry out credit risk analysis in conjunction with environmental and social risks inherently associated with each green investment project are all essential aspects.

And finally, banks should be encouraged to adopt the successful green methodological approaches of Asian countries, particularly China and Indonesia, which are currently at the mature stage of the green market.

These bank-centred recommendations are made on the factual estimation in the SBN report 2019 that emerging economies require a funding of \$70 trillion by 2030 to

achieve sustainable development projects that are in line with their national priorities. Banks operating in emerging economies held assets worth \$50tr by June 2018, signalling that banks have great leverage in determining the pace at which conventional emerging economy transitions into a resource-efficient and climate-resilient one. ■



WAYS TO HELP ENVIRONMENT

- Plant a leafy tree in your neighborhood and water it regularly
- Use biodegradable products wherever possible
- Always Use paper on both sides and make use of scrap paper whenever possible
- Avoid plastic bags. Bring your own cloth bag
- Save water by taking shorter showers and use least possible water while washing hands and brushing
- Never waste food as it is precious made with natural recourse
- Open window or close them to adjust the heat instead of using the air conditioner always
- Use cycle when travelling to nearby places. This will reduce pollution

Additional graphics include: a cartoon character watering a plant, a recycling bin, a 'NO PLASTIC BAGS' bag, a 'STOP WASTING FOOD' sign, and a person riding a bicycle.

Jahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

Syed Abrar Ali Shah (SAAS): By profession, I am an engineer. I graduated from NED University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

JWT: Since you have been allocated to Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS), what was the feature of this service that attracted you most?

SAAS: Although each group of civil service has its own distinctive importance, what makes PAS stand out is its provision of vast mobility and opportunity of direct public service, accessing to the marginalized segments of the society. Alongside this, it is the only service that offers swift promotion structure and greater social recognition.

JWT: How much helpful did you find World Times Institute (WTI) during your preparation?

SAAS: I engaged with WTI during one of my mock interviews and I found the panel quite encouraging and keen in pointing out my mistakes.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to making a difference in written part of CSS exam?

SAAS: I believe a every serious aspirant writes more or less the same answer. And thus, the difference in the marks is made only when a different answer is written. This can be done through backing up one's arguments with real-life

examples and case studies of the countries which are the close competitors of Pakistan—in case a question demands a socio-political-economic problem, which I believe most of the questions actually do. Besides, the examiner will never take any answer as a serious attempt, let alone awarding excellent marks, if the headings do not mirror the statement of the question. Most importantly, one must not take MCQs portion lightly, as they can make a difference of 50 marks in 10 subjects at the end.

JWT: What was the key to your phenomenal success?

SAAS: My failure in first attempt is what I consider the key to my success in the second. I suggest the aspirants to go for the next attempt, in case if you have failed one; it, of course, requires consistency and determination.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks?

SAAS: I would say whenever one is asked to give solution in the answer, one must give a SPECIFIC SOLUTION instead of a GENERALISED RECOMMENDATION. This will make a difference of 2 marks per question, that, in turn, sums up to a total of 40–50 marks in all papers.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

SAAS: In this exam, I believe, quality of the answers matters more than the quantity. But it is safe to write at least 6 pages for an answer. Keeping in view the available time which is

“ My failure in first attempt is what I consider the key to my success. ”

**In Conversation with
Syed Abrar Ali Shah
(PAS)**

**1st in Sindh Rural;
16th in Pakistan, CSS 2018-19**





My Interview Experience

To score good in interview, Command Task on the interview day is very important. Haplessly, I couldn't perform well in it. And for that, I was taken to task by the chairman for about 10 minutes in the start of my interview. Later, he asked me few token questions from two of my optional subjects, which I could hardly answer. After this fatal conversation with Mr Chairman, my interview went smooth with all the other members, but it didn't offer much of a help to me. Thanks to My Written Score!

about 35-37 minutes per question, after making the rough outlines at the back of the answer sheet, an aspirant having average writing speed can easily write up to six pages. Most importantly, mismanagement is intolerable for the examiner, so do not unnecessarily shorten the length of the last answer due to paucity of time.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay as you have been awarded excellent marks in that? And what was your strategy for Précis and Composition paper?

SAAS: First of all, it should be kept in mind that Essay paper can be cracked through many techniques; nobody knows which one is going to work. You have to figure out your own strategy. As for my strategy, I always believed that the examiner won't spare more than five minutes to decide whether my essay justifies getting passed or not! So, I went with an extensive outline, I whereby mentioned every case study, real-life examples, substantiated facts and figures within the outline. I did every possible thing to make the examiner curious about the essay. Moreover, I chose a topic related to current affairs as I was always comfortable in writing on such topics—it means you have to find your own comfort zone. Besides, I tried not to breach any

paragraphing technique in my essay and ensured a proper introduction and its mirror-imaging conclusion.

For Précis and Composition, one should practice as much as one can. This subject can help one in getting a good score if the précis, comprehension and translation are solved correctly.

JWT: How a new aspirant should start his preparations and what areas should he focus?

SAAS: Guidance is really important for CSS exam. So, one should first seek guidance from a good mentor. Since this is more of an exam of English

drafting as most of the aspirants flunk the English Essay paper, one should work on improving one's writing skills - Rewriting dawn editorials, even reproducing them, can do the job. For making one's thoughts mature and for broadening one's horizon, there is only one technique: read, read and read.

My tips on:

Selection of optional subjects

For me, one's interest and aptitude for a subject should be the prioritized criteria for selecting it. Subjects' overlapping does play a huge part in choosing a subject too. Importantly, scoring trend should not be worried about, because this is something beyond one's control. So stop wasting your energies in this and prepare for your subject more meticulously.

Notes-making

Notes-making should be as short as possible because one would not have more than 3-4 hours for a subject to revise. In CSS, if you have not revised a subject properly, you are losing 10 marks for each subject, for sure, and probably you are out of the race. ■

Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	My elder brother
Attempts	02
Qualification	B.E (Mechanical)
Alma mater	NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi
Schooling medium	Urdu
Your study schedule	6-8 hours a day
Your sources	Books, newspapers (Dawn, Tribune), BBC documentaries and Internet
Group preferences	1. PAS 2. PSP 3. IRS
Why PAS?	1. Promotion structures; 2. Social p restige attached to this group ; and 3. Scope of work (diverse exposure)
Hobbies	Watching movies, socializing, cricket
Fave personality	Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad
Fave book(s)	Forty Rules of Love by Elif Shafak
Fave quote	"Privilege has its own way of seeing the world. " — Harry Shearer
Secret of your success	Proper guidance, and going for the consecutive attempts.
Any CSP from your family?	Elder Brother

Detailed Marks Sheet

Subject	Marks
Compulsory Subjects	
Essay	63
Précis & Composition	47
GSA	57
Current Affairs	76
Pakistan Affairs	31
Islamiat	59
Optional Subjects	
Physics	149
Public Administration	85
International Law	52
Indo-Pak History	75
Sindhi	66
Total Written	760
Viva Voce	117
Grand Total	877

“Without an iota of doubt,
WTI is one of the best
institutes for the preparation of
competitive examinations like CSS”

In Conversation with **ALI HASSAN RAZA (PCS)** 55th in Pakistan, CSS 2018-19



JWT Editorial Board

Jahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

Ali Hassan Raza (AHR): I acquired basic education till class 7 from my hometown, Jauharabad. Then, I enrolled myself in Cadet College Palandri, AJK from where I completed my matriculation and FSc with flying colours. Then, I earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from UET, Lahore, with distinction, followed by several certifications. I also earned an LLB degree from Punjab University.

JWT: Since you have been allocated to the Pakistan Customs Service (PCS), what was the feature of this service that attracted you most?

AHR: The reason behind opting for PCS was that I am naturally attracted towards the job, which is more or less of policing in nature. My background and experience of studying in a cadet college made me select this uniform service.

JWT: How was your experience at World Times Institute (WTI)?

AHR: Without an iota of doubt, WTI is one of the best institutes for the preparation of competitive examinations like CSS. This Institute played a pivotal role in my success by providing me with proper guidance and opportunity to interact with the finest civil servants. Sir Asim Raza (PAS), who writes essay writing tips for JWT magazine, was my mentor.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to making a difference in written part of CSS exam?

AHR: For me, if one wants to make a real difference in

written part, one must follow four-pronged strategy viz.

1. Do not beat about the bush.
2. Write neatly, no cuttings, use black and blue markers for headings.
3. Complement your answers with latest indices, facts and references.

4. Every subject has its own jargons. Do communicate with the examiner in that.

Detailed Marks Sheet

Subject	Marks
Compulsory Subjects	
Essay	41
Précis & Composition	49
Everyday Science	59
Current Affairs	56
Pakistan Affairs	36
Islamiat	53
Optional Subjects	
International Relations	128
Public Administration	88
Agriculture & Forestry	57
International Law	51
Geography	82
Total Written	700
Viva Voce	144
Grand Total	844

JWT: Generally, compulsory subjects are considered low-scoring, what was your strategy to get through these very papers?

AHR: Yes, compulsory subjects are generally considered low-scoring. However, aspirants can still perform exceptionally well by preparing them well and by going an extra mile for MCQs. There should be no spellings or grammatical mistakes. Illustrate your answer with drawing figures and maps, where required.

JWT: What was the key to your phenomenal success?

AHR: I worked with persistence. Whatever you do, do with full passion. Secondly, I remained optimistic throughout my CSS journey. I scored zero marks in essay paper in my first attempt but I didn't lose hope. I improved my writing skills and scored 65 marks in my last mock essay.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks?

AHR: To get maximum marks in written part, following strategy should be adopted:

1. There should be clarity of thought and coherence in your answer.
2. Each answer must be limited to six pages. Do not go

beyond that limit.

3. The answer should be well-structured.

4. Have an overview of Examiners' Report from official FPSC website.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

AHR: Not exactly; there is no word limit but do remember that every answer should be given equal time, i.e. 40 minutes. Along with that, do not compromise quality over quantity.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay and what was your strategy for Précis and Composition Paper?

AHR: I wrote essay on "The threat of global warming and the ways to counter it." I made an outline (3 pages) in the start. Then, I wrote a well-structured introduction and garnished it with impressive words. The body of the essay was in very simple language. I mentioned pragmatic strategies as recommendations, which were followed by a well-chalked-out conclusion.

JWT: How a new aspirant should start his/her preparations and what areas should (s)he focus?

AHR: First, one should be mentally prepared for the exam, and seek family's support. One should choose optional subjects very wisely. Aspirant should also join a well-reputed CSS academy or get guidance from an experienced CSS mentor.

JWT: How did you handle de-motivations?

AHR: This is a question, which is very close to my heart. This is the feeling, which every aspirant has to confront during CSS preparation, and I, too, faced that. Always have a plan B. I was myself not sure about my success but I kept going. Leave the rest to Allah Almighty. He is the best planner.

My tips on:

Selection of optional subjects

There is nothing like trending or non-trending subjects. You never know which subject is in the hit list of the examiner. Select optional subjects by taking your educational background and interest into consideration. Make a combination of subjects that complement each other.

Notes-making

My Interview Experience


It was a wonderful experience. In the start, I was asked to tell some facts about my native district and my college. More than 60 percent of my interview revolved around current affairs; with questions on topics ranging from Yellow Vest Movement, the political situation in Spain, Netherlands to the US, Kashmir and Afghanistan. I think the key to success in interview is that you do not fidget and answer with full confidence and a smiling face. If you do not know the answer, just apologize, there is no harm in saying "sorry". Appear in mock interviews as much as you can.

Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	Parents and my paternal uncle
Attempts	02
Qualification	B.Sc. (Electrical) with distinction - Bronze Medallist; and LLB (PU)
Alma mater	UET, Lahore
Schooling medium	English
Your study schedule	10-12 hours a day
Your sources	FPSC-recommended books, research papers, Internet, JWT magazine, Economist, Foreign Affairs, Dawn, The Nation
Group preferences	1. PSP 2. PCS 3. PAS
Why these groups	They provide a raft of opportunities for vertical and horizontal growth
Why PCS?	Pakistan Customs is the guardian of Pakistan's borders against movement of contraband goods, smuggling and money laundering. Moreover, it is a uniform service. Such challenging and interesting service suits my professional ambition.
Hobbies	Equestrianism (Horse riding), watching movies, hunting, travelling and hanging out with friends
Notable achievements	1. Completed B.Sc. Electrical Engineering from UET with distinction 2. Henry Dunant Award for Best Performance, IEEE RDP, Pakistan 3. Best Student Branch Award, IEEE South Asia 4. Best Shooter-2009, Cadet College Palandri 5. Best Student Volunteer Award, IEEE Lahore Section 6. Best Performance Award, IEEE USA
Fave personality	Nelson Mandela
Fave book(s)	'The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power' by Daniel Yergin.
Fave quote	"Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success." —Dale Carnegie
Secret of your success	Allah's grace, continuous encouragement from family, persistence, optimism, learning from failures.
Role model	My parents

I used to make notes on MS Word and Microsoft OneNote. This helped me to update them very easily; it reduces page consumption, which later on has a positive psychological impact. I was able to revise each subject for 2-3 times not in a month—BUT IN A DAY.

Revision

For me, revision plays a key role in preparation for CSS exam. Aspirants should wind up the notes-making process by the end of October. After that, they should appear in mock exams and start revision. 



Teleschooling in Pakistan

Will it yield the desired results?



The Government of Pakistan has shown gumption by launching the Teleschool project in collaboration with Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV). There are two cardinal reasons behind this initiative: First, continue educational activities in the country at a time when all educational institutions are closed due to efforts to thwart the spread of Covid-19, and second, to make efforts to uplift the country's literacy rate.

Under the current situation due to Covid-19, first reason will be instrumental in filling the gap and help students learn during the period when their institutions face closure. The second reason is, indeed, a long-term ambition of government as it intends to expand this project for the betterment of education system and literacy rate. However, achieving these goals may prove to be a herculean task due to a host of issues. Here are some advantages and the flip side of the idea of teleschooling.

Advantages

The first and foremost advantage of teleschooling is that it will create awareness about importance of education and learning from home. Secondly, children would start taking interest in learning and they will get into the habit of doing productive things. Thirdly, the channel would assist those students who cannot afford hefty private tuition fees as, by this method, they can learn free of charge. No doubt, connecting technology with education would have a great impact on our education system. But there should be favourable circumstances such as a sound and functional education system and good governance, to achieve the desired results. Otherwise, it would not be possible to revolutionize the whole education system, especially

improving education standards and uplifting literacy rates.

Challenges

In Pakistan's case, this initiative is icing on the cake. It is an effort towards improving educational standard which seems good, but the conditions in Pakistan in the context of flawed educational system and poor governance will hardly allow this ambition to become a reality. An estimated half the children of Pakistan will not be able to get full benefit of this initiative. It is because of the following reasons:

1. Pakistan's education system is in shambles as a huge body of research has concluded that millions of children of school-going age are out of schools. It is a sad reality that we find more children at workshops than in schools due to the abject poverty owing to which their families send them to work to earn some money. How can we expect that these children will have time to watch these teaching-learning channels? Or if we believe for a moment that they have time to watch, the second question arises, do they even have a television set at their homes?

2. Another reason is the shortage of electricity due to which power outages are common in almost all parts of Pakistan. There is an average 8-10-hour power breakdown in most urban areas, and the situation is even worse in remote areas where people are experiencing more hours of power outages. How can we expect

Dawood Abbas Khan that students would get maximum advantage of teleschooling if cities remained reeling under long hours of load-shedding? No doubt, it would be difficult for students to watch their scheduled classes on time.

3. It is important to say that this initiative will work better only under a sound, functional and well-organized education system. Getting benefits from these channels is almost impossible for the students from Balochistan and Sindh provinces where most of the government schools are deserted and contain zero facilities.

School is the foundation and an important prerequisite for the promotion of telechooling, we cannot get the desired result when the doors of schools are closed and teachers are nowhere to be seen.

Reforming education system has hardly been a top priority of successive governments. At present, initiating teleschools to reform the standard of education is a long jump. Teleschool will not yield significant results unless the government puts in all efforts to reform the country's rotten education system.

In a nutshell, teleschool is a good step and can bring meaningful result but only under a sound and functional education system. This is the area that needs urgent attention. ■

The author is a student of Political Science at Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad.

With coronavirus cases on a rapid rise, the World Health Organisation (WHO) officially changed their classification of Covid-19, the mysterious viral pneumonia-like disease caused by the novel coronavirus, from a public health emergency of international concern to a pandemic. While making the declaration, the organisation's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said, "WHO has been assessing this outbreak around the clock, and we're deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction."

What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease Covid-19.

What is a pandemic?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a pandemic as "an outbreak of a new pathogen that spreads easily from person to person across the globe." According to A Dictionary of Epidemiology, the standard reference for epidemiologists, a pandemic is "an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people."

Simply put, a pandemic is the worldwide spread of a new infectious disease. When a new disease spreads over a vast geographical area covering several countries and continents, and most people do not have immunity against it, the outbreak is termed a pandemic. The word is from the Greek 'pan' meaning 'all' and 'demos' meaning 'people'; it stretches over a larger area, infects more people and causes more deaths than an epidemic. But the term refers to the spread of disease, not its potency or deadliness. There is no fixed number of cases or deaths that determine when an outbreak becomes a pandemic. It, however, implies a higher level of concern than an epidemic.

What is an epidemic?

The term epidemic refers to the constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infectious agent in a population within a geographic area. It is an outbreak that occurs at a predictable rate in a certain area or among a set population. Chickenpox is classed as an epidemic as it occurs at a high but predictable rate among youngsters. Epidemics remain at a steady state, but do not disappear from a population. Hyperendemic refers to the persistent, higher levels of disease prevalence in a particular place.

What is an epidemic?

An epidemic will see a disease rapidly spread among a large number of people in a given population. During an epidemic the disease will normally spread in two weeks or less. Epidemics may be the consequence of disasters of another kind, such as tropical storms, floods, earthquakes and droughts. There have been 14 epidemics since 2010, including the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, which killed 11,300 people between 2013 and 2016. In 2003, the SARS outbreak was classed as an epidemic—it killed nearly 800 people.

10 worst pandemics in human history

1. HIV/AIDS pandemic (at its peak, 2001-12)

Cause: HIV/AIDS

Death toll: 36 million

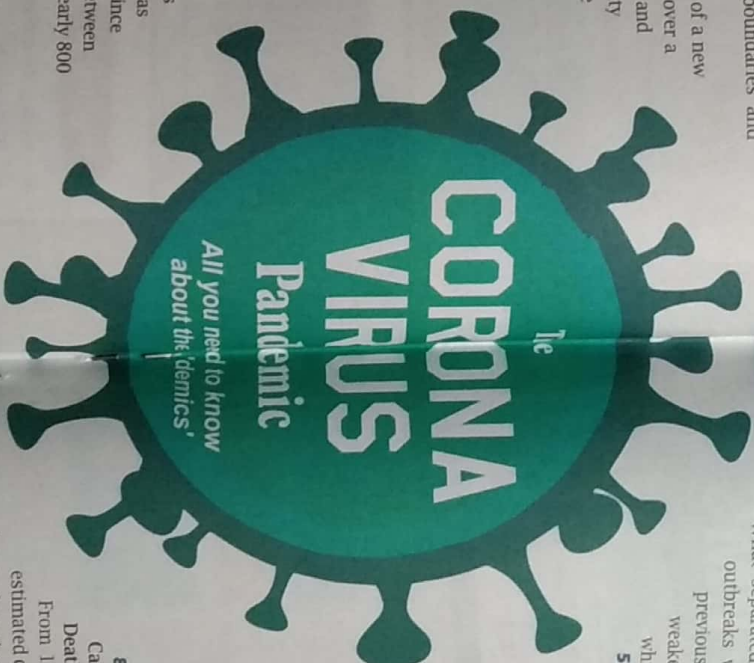
Currently, there are between 31 and 35 million people living with HIV, the vast majority of those are in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 5% of the population is infected, roughly 21 million people. Between 2005 and 2012, the annual global deaths from HIV/AIDS dropped from 2.2 million to 1.6 million.

2. Flu pandemic (1968)

Cause: Influenza

Death toll: 1 million

From the first reported case on July 13, 1968 in Hong Kong, it took only 17 days before outbreaks of the virus were reported in Singapore and Vietnam, and within three months had spread to The Philippines, India, Australia, Europe, and the United States.



3. Asian flu (1956-58)

Cause: Influenza

Death toll: 2 million

Asian flu was a pandemic outbreak of Influenza A of the H2N2 subtype that originated in China in 1956 and lasted until 1958. In its two-year spree, Asian flu traveled from the Chinese province of Guizhou to Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United States.

4. Flu pandemic (1918)

Cause: Influenza

Death toll: 20-50 million

Between 1918 and 1920, a disturbingly deadly outbreak of influenza tore across the globe, infecting over a third of the world's population and ending the lives of 20 to 50 million people.

What separated the 1918 flu pandemic from other influenza outbreaks was the victims: where influenza had always

previously only killed juveniles and the elderly or already weakened patients, it had begun striking down hardy and completely healthy young adults, while leaving children and those with weaker immune systems still alive.

5. Sixth Cholera pandemic (1910-1911)

Cause: Cholera

Death toll: 800,000+

Like its five previous incarnations, the Sixth Cholera Pandemic originated in India where it killed over 800,000, before spreading to the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Russia.

6. Flu pandemic (1889-1900)

Cause: Influenza

Death toll: 1 million

Originally the "Asiatic Flu" or "Russian Flu", its first cases were observed in May 1889 in three separate and distant locations, Bukhara in Central Asia (Turkistan), Alibabasca in northwestern Canada, and Greenland.

7. Third Cholera pandemic (1852-1860)

Cause: Cholera

Death toll: 1 million

Generally considered the deadliest of the seven cholera pandemics, the third major outbreak of Cholera in the 19th century lasted from 1852 to 1860. Like the first and second pandemics, the Third Cholera Pandemic originated in India, spreading from the Ganges River Delta before tearing through Asia, Europe, North America and Africa and ending the lives of over a million people.

8. The Black Death (1346-1353)

Cause: Bubonic plague

Death toll: 75-200 million

From 1346 to 1353, an outbreak of the Plague ravaged Europe, Africa and Asia, with an estimated death toll between 75 and 200 million people. Originated in Asia, the plague most likely jumped continents via the fleas living on the rats that so frequently lived aboard merchant ships.

9. Plague of Justinian (541-542)

Cause: Bubonic Plague

Death toll: 25 million

Thought to have killed perhaps half the population of Europe, the Plague of Justinian was an outbreak of the bubonic plague that afflicted the Byzantine Empire and Mediterranean port cities, killing up to 25 million people in its year long reign of terror.

10. Antonine Plague (165 AD)

Cause: Unknown

Death toll: 5 million

Also known as the Plague of Galen, the Antonine Plague was an ancient pandemic that affected Asia Minor, Egypt, Greece and Italy, and is thought to have been either Smallpox or Measles, though the true cause is still unknown. ☐

Outbreaks of disease can spread rapidly and kill thousands—but what is the difference between a pandemic, an epidemic and an epidemic? Here we explain the difference between the terms and what they mean.

epi (among) + demos = epidemic

en (in) + demos = endemic

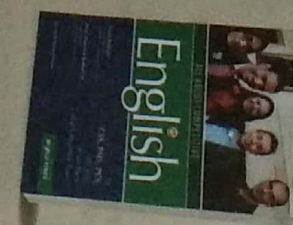
pan (all) + demos = pandemic

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NATIONAL



CRIMINAL LAW AND THE PUNJAB SENTENCING ACT, 2019

In November last year, the provincial assembly of Punjab passed the Punjab Sentencing Bill, 2019, which is meant to facilitate courts in awarding punishments to criminals as per the intensity and nature of the crime they committed. Moved by the provincial Law Minister, Raja Basharat, the bill gives a new shape to the criminal justice system in Punjab as it demands from courts that they mention reasons for awarding longer or shorter imprisonments in criminal cases. The law divides sentences into four categories while keeping in view the nature, intensity of the offence and different aspects of awarding punishments to the criminals. In the instant write-up, the author has discussed various aspects of the Act.

Kamran Adil

Constitutionality of Criminal Law

Modern states claim to assert their monopoly over lawful use of force within their jurisdiction through criminal law; in this sense, criminal law enables states to maintain their internal national security and to keep order in the society. Historically, Pakistan's criminal law has not been rewritten. Colonial legal codes in the form of Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (general criminal law), and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (general criminal procedure), remained applicable to this day, perpetuating the impression that the subject of criminal law is federal in nature. This is far from the truth. The constitutional record shows that, in its original scheme, the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, kept the criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence on Concurrent Legislative List (CLL) permitting both the federal and provincial legislatures to legislate on the subjects. Later on, after the introduction of the Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment to the Constitution in 2010, despite the abolition of the CLL, the three subjects were preserved for concurrent legislation by both the federation and the provinces (Articles 142 and 143). The point, however, was not so interpreted by the provinces that started dealing the criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence as their exclusive domains. Such treatment of the criminal law has far-reaching effects as it not only affects the working of



the criminal justice system, but also has implications for criminal laws that are used by the law-enforcement agencies for national security such as the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

Criminal Law and Sentencing

Sentencing and criminal law and procedure are closely related. To appreciate their relationship, it would be appropriate to examine the concept of sentencing. Black's Law Dictionary defines sentencing as 'the judicial determination of the penalty of a crime'. It has also been explained as the 'apex of the judicial process. It is the end product of the whole of the criminal justice system. In Pakistan, debates on the severity of punishments have been part of the public discourse without taking into consideration the law related to sentencing. Practically, the punishment prescribed by the law is applied by the judge as per his/her own discretion, and by doing so, the chances of legislative intent being ignored or diluted cannot be ruled out. The sentencing has been introduced in two formats, i.e. through guidelines and through legislation. In Pakistan, the law of sentencing is stated in Section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, where a convict under the age of twenty-one years can be released on probation, instead of being imprisoned. The law, however, is seldom put to practice. In addition, the High Court Rules and Order (Part A, Chapter

19, Volume III) provides for guidelines on sentencing, linking it to variety of considerations such as 'the motive of crime, its gravity, the character of the offender, his age, antecedents ... aggravating circumstances' and previous convictions. The High Court Rules and Order (being a delegated legislation) also remained dormant in its application.

The Punjab Sentencing Act, 2019

To the already available legal provisions and without repealing or reconciling with them, a new law titled as the Punjab Sentencing Act, 2019, has been enacted. The law is first of its kind as it is dedicated to the subject. It has spelled out the following purposes of sentencing (Section 4):

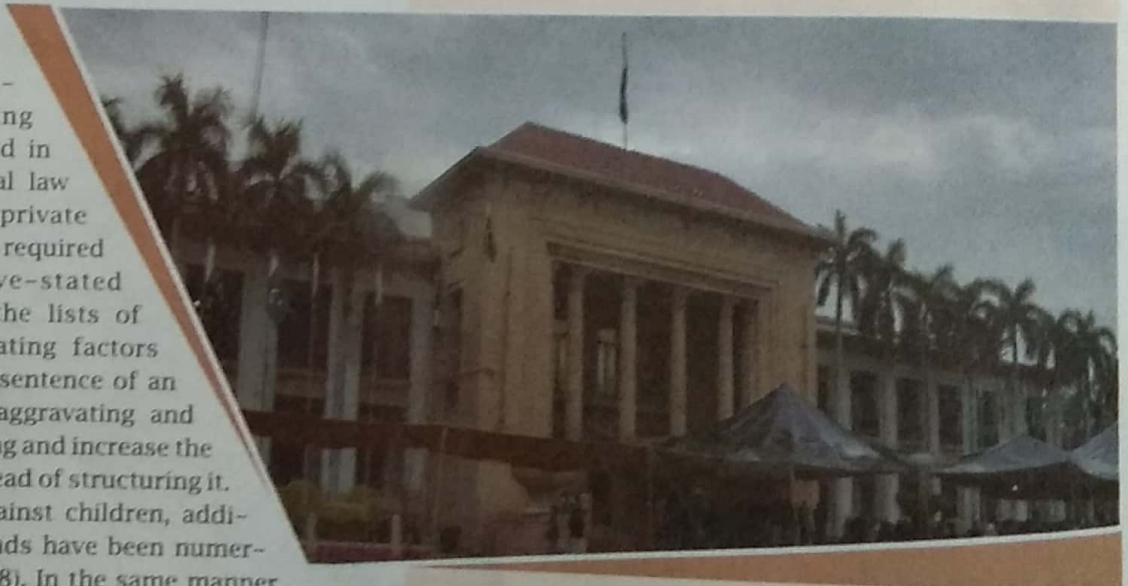
- a. punishment of offenders;
- b. reduction of crime including reduction of deterrence;
- c. reform and rehabilitation of offenders;
- d. protection of the public; and
- e. making of reparation by offenders to persons affected by their offences.

It may be noted that purpose 'e' stated above may fortify the much-criticized compounding regime that has resulted in privatization of criminal law as a matter between private persons. The courts are required to consider the above-stated purposes along with the lists of aggravating and mitigating factors before determining the sentence of an offender. The lists of aggravating and mitigating factors are long and increase the discretion of judges instead of structuring it. In case of offenders against children, additional aggravating grounds have been enumerated in the law (Section 8). In the same manner, the offenders involved in religious and terrorism cases are also to be sentenced harshly by providing for additional aggravating grounds in such cases (Sections 9 and 10). The law applies only in cases where the offences are punishable with 'a time range imprisonment' and are not coupled with capital punishment (Sections 3 and 4). Though seasoned judges always provide for the reasons of their determination of sentences, the law, for the first time, obliges judges by law to state the reasons for determination of sentencing and requires them to use a grid of sentencing zones against range of punishments (Section 13). The Schedule to the law provides four gradual zones (A, B, C and D) against seven ranges of punishment. It is to be seen how the two-dimensional sentencing grid will work in practice as the non-compliance with the law has no legal consequences for the judges. The law also provides for a Sentencing Council, an executive body to

'develop and issue' guidelines (Section 21).

Concluding Remarks

The federation and the provinces can legislate in domains of the criminal law, procedure and evidence. In practice, however, the constitutional scheme is not being followed and each province is trying to carve out its own criminal law without taking into account full scope of Articles 142 and 143 of the Constitution of Pakistan. Through the Punjab Sentencing Act, 2019, however, an attempt has been made to ensure that minimum punishments are determined by the courts in appropriate cases. It may, however, be noted that without the cooperation of the Federation and the Provinces, the force of the criminal law and procedure will be limited as the criminal justice system crisscrosses the provincial and federal structure in an interdependent manner. Pakistan's leadership of the justice sector may be urged to take wisdom from the dual sovereignty doctrine of the US that treats both the Federation and the States as sovereigns when it comes to



enforcing criminal laws of the country. In the latest case of *Gamble v. the United States* (2018), the Supreme Court of the United States observed:

"...Yes, our Constitution rests on the principle that the people are sovereign, but that does not mean that they have conferred all the attributes of sovereignty on a single government. Instead, the people, by adopting the Constitution, 'split the atom of sovereignty'."

May be, it's time for Pakistan to consider 'splitting the atom of sovereignty' between the Federation and the Provinces. ■

*The author is an independent researcher and has done his BCL from the University of Oxford.
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Introduction

The 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan has done little to change the status of local governments in Pakistan. Despite application of several iterative reforms so that they are able to tackle the subjects devolved to them, the performance of local governments seems to lack essence. The passage of the 18th Amendment meant that local governments would be placed at the centre of the country's

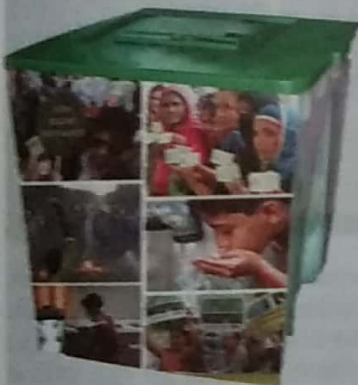
The idea of devolution and empowerment is not merely to transfer a few provincial and federal subjects to the local governments. This may result in modelling of the local governments against the governance models adopted at the federal level or in the provinces. They may not be great examples to follow, especially in the case of the developing world. Local governments following such transfers would continue to stay local. The idea is to look at the successful local

strengthening of local governments in Pakistan. The context on how their structure and functionality have been conveniently moulded to suit political interests yields an intriguing analysis. It is interesting to observe how political considerations determined the outlook and complexion of governance that was to take place in Pakistan.

Trajectory

In the aftermath of the 18th Amendment, Pakistan had to make the exercise of devolving

TURNING THE LOCAL GLOBAL



development campaign. They had to act as the development pivot. However, in all safety, one can say that local governments under Musharraf were far more organized than they are now under an arguably democratic polity. And no matter how good the 18th Amendment looks on paper, it has definitely fallen short of the object that set it in motion. Not only in local, but also in the provincial and federal governments systemic cracks have been exposed regularly by external shocks that lay bare the huge capacity deficits prevalent within these organizations.

governance models followed around the world, and remodel local governments to bring them in line with the international best practices. Local governments, therefore, have to be turned global. This is where Pakistan has seriously failed. Despite making a historic legislative advancement by passing the 18th Amendment, Pakistan has not been able to provide local governments the status that they deserved. Much of this can be understood by looking at the trajectory of empowerment and

powers, both financial and administrative, to the provinces. The Concurrent List was abolished which meant that subjects that were dealt with both at the federation level and in the provinces were automatically dropped from the federal purview to become provincial. This was a transitory step in the devolution process — a bigger and more difficult leap forward had to be devolution from the provinces to the districts. It has taken Pakistan 10 years (since 2010 when the Amendment was passed), dozens of dossiers, reports and policy papers but local governments continue to operate as feebly as they did back in 2010. An under resourced office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), few Assistant Commissioners (in larger districts) and disempowered local

political executive who is neither elected on a continuous basis nor provided adequate and sufficient funds to keep the wheel of development moving. Between 2009 and 2015, not a single local-bodies election was held meaning that the districts operated only under the administrative control of the District Coordination Officer (DCO), holder of an office whose sanctity and writ had significantly waned after the Local Government Ordinance of 2001. I shall come to discuss that in detail later in the piece.

It is imperative to imagine the empowerment and strengthening of local governments in context of the larger political system. The different roles that the local governments assume during civilian and military

required that there be some level of political representation which necessitated that the military rulers would undertake the laborious exercise of creating a parallel leadership which would then have to be provided some franchise. Most of the political leadership created in the breeding grounds of the military became politically irrelevant as soon as the reins of power were transferred to the civilian leadership. They just simply vanished.

The BDO did promise some franchise to the local political executive but did so by making them subservient to a controlling authority comprising the DC, Commissioner and other members of the local bureaucratic elite. Ayub's local government was also essentially used to legitimize the

the local level. Even to date, almost all mainstream political parties seem to be rather disorganized at the local level, having little or no party structure in the zila, tehsil or mouza. Most democracies that have been established in Pakistan have built on this rather undemocratic premise.

Bhutto was opposed to the bureaucracy, not bitterly per se but his actions did as much to contain the bureaucracy as they did to reform it. His era is considered the one of discomfort for the bureaucrats who found themselves weak, incapacitated and effectively sidelined often performing menial and routine tasks. From the very outset, Bhutto was eager to regulate the functioning of the bureaucracy. He brought a system of bureaucratic reform that



regimes is an interesting way to understand how local governments interact with the larger political system and why today they stand where they do. During the times of the military, greater emphasis was placed on strengthening local governments. The opposite, unfortunately, happened when democratic rule was established. Ayub Khan's Basic Democracies Order (BDO-1959) sought to create a multi-tiered system of local government and empowered it against higher-order political organizations that were disbanded through the military takeover in 1958. Thereafter, this became a regular practice of the military rulers. Whosoever came to power did so by overthrowing the mainstream political leadership. However, the demands of governance

controversial Constitution of 1962 that was seen to strengthen the armed forces at the loss of other institutions apart from also trying to forge the establishment of an apparently presidential system. One, therefore, must understand that strengthening local governments by allowing space for newly-elected local representatives and arming them with some financial and administrative powers at the tehsil and zila (district) levels is not a choice of the military rulers, but a necessity. The mainstream leadership that the parallel local political representatives created by the military are expected to replace often operate at the higher level of politics. Their interest in the provincial and national politics leaves space open for infiltration at

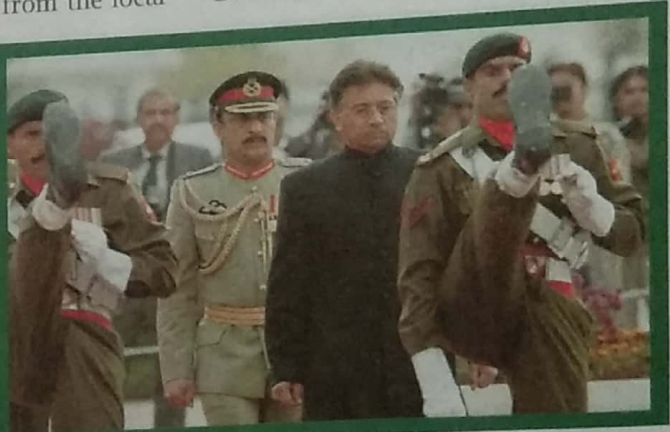
divided the executive branch of the government into 12 cadres, all put into a common system that provided for joint training of the different cadres of the civil service and bound them by a set of service rules to be codified into the Estacode. The making of these rules was mandated by Article 99 of the newly-passed 1973 Constitution of Pakistan. He abolished constitutional guarantees for civil servants which further added to the insecurities that civil servants felt during his time at the office. The CSP, which was once the linchpin of Pakistan's bureaucracy and spearheaded the country's initial development process, was made subservient to the jiyalas of the PPP who belonged to a political class that was not equipped with the tools and training needed to formulate and

execute policies and development plans. This resulted in conflicts and governance failures that doubled the government's disadvantage during a period when the nationalization of private enterprise demanded better administration. Sidelining both the private sector and the bureaucracy was a recipe for disaster. However, as Pakistan still holds onto the common system of recruitment and the service rules established under Bhutto, one begins to wonder if his reforms were as bad as they are perceived to be.

As Cheema et.al point out, Zia followed in the footsteps of Bhutto by foregoing political centralization to institute electoral representation at the local level. Like Ayub whose primary support base lay in the rural areas the allocations of which he had

bureaucracy. The executive branch of the government under Musharraf did not feel as weak as did the newly-created office of the DCO who was now, in many ways, subordinating the District Mayor. Several good officers, who held the posts of DC and Commissioner prior to the change, requested for transfers to the provincial secretariat to avoid being answerable to the elected mayors who they perhaps saw as offices poorly placed to supervise their functioning. The local bodies elections of 2001 and 2005 saw strong local governments with significant amount of funds at their disposal in the districts. The bureaucracy assumed a subsidiary role in the development process. This however, was not a withdrawal of powers from the local

own. Transferring these to the local political executive, who is elected on a non-party basis, would result in an irreversible dilution of administrative and financial powers. This was not acceptable to any of the two parties that governed in the decade between 2008 and 2018. No local bodies elections were held during the 5-year PPP rule which meant that the administrative space vacated in the districts was filled by the bureaucracy. A new local bodies ordinance was promulgated in 2013 that did not return magistracy powers to the Pakistan Administrative Service; however, it did restore the office of the DC and sought to distribute powers rather equally between the DPO, DC and the District and Sessions Judge



increased significantly as a strategy to remove the urban bias strongly associated with his predecessors. Interestingly, while the military-empowered local governments made efforts to remove the rural-urban divide and provided them with some degree of representation, the provincial administration retained suspension powers and the powers to quash resolutions of the local governments. The bargain perhaps was to empower local governments but not at the expense of the hierarchy that placed the military administrators in the higher echelons of authority.

The Local Government Ordinance (LGO) of 2001 was promulgated under a military government but to the great surprise of observers, it served to weaken the district

governments rather it was a change that empowered one local player at the expense of another. It was later determined that the elected local bodies supervised by the military could not yield the same development outcomes as did the bureaucracy. News agencies in those time reported massive corruption and embezzlement of funds at the local level, raising serious concerns on the quality of governance in the districts. The re-emergence of a democratic policy in Pakistan in 2008 meant that while there would be promises to empower local governments, the so-called democratic governments in the centre and the provinces would be reluctant in transferring authority to the districts which may run them the risk of doing away with powers that many of them perceived as their

depending on the mandate and requirements of their specific roles.

Conclusion

The empowerment and strengthening of local governments still remain a concern for Pakistan, especially from the viewpoint of establishing a strong federation the precondition to which is functioning and independent federating units. The true spirit of the 18th Amendment and fiscal federalism will be a distant dream until the decision-making powers are not devolved to the lowest level. ■

The writer is a civil servant working for the Federal Government of Pakistan, and ex-Director of the Institute of Public Policy, Lahore. He can be reached via email @ asad.ejazb@gmail.com

In Conversation with

Muhammad Saqib Trazi

9th in Punjab, PMS 2019-20

“The competitive environment at World Times Institute sensitised me with the required input and efforts to overcome weaknesses to finally secure merit in the exam.”

Jahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

Muhammad Saqib Trazi (MST): I matriculated from a local government school in Lahore and done intermediate from Punjab College. Having aced the CAT within six months, I started my ACCA. Next, I earned my MA Political Science degree securing third position from University of the Punjab, Lahore.

JWT: How much helpful did you find World Times Institute during your preparation for PMS exam?

MST: World Times Institute was quite facilitating with its teaching faculty and academic ambience. The competitive environment sensitised me with the required input and efforts to overcome weaknesses to finally secure the merit in the exam.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to getting through compulsory papers of PMS exam, especially that of General Knowledge?

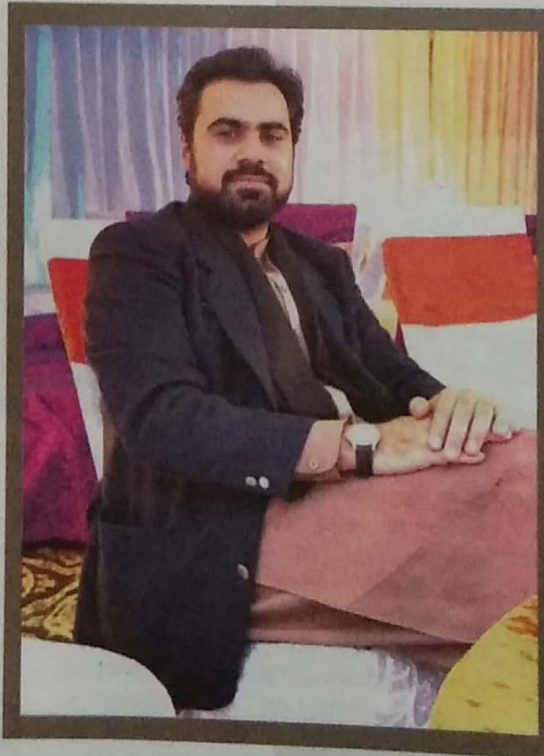
MST: The amalgam of reading and writing is a foundation on which the whole edifice of success in this competitive exam is built, I believe. Structure the answer in compulsory subjects, particularly pay heed to introduction. Be simple and be sure of your answer. Get your answers evaluated from teachers during the preparation phase. Analyse weak spots in the answers and deal with them. As of GK, visualising the key facts, drawing maps, and relating the facts with other compulsory subjects helped me pass this paper.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks in the written part of PMS exam?

MST: A properly-structured answer with well-stuffed content catches the examiner's eye. Comprehend the question and brainstorm its possible aspects. Then, write the answer with utmost confidence. Introductions determine the scores. Be relevant in them without limiting the number of pages or length of the paragraph. Diversify them by stating opinions than relying on quotations.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay?

MST: As essay is an academic form of writing; its universal structure must be followed. Digression from the structure may be penalised. While writing introduction to the essay, I elaborated the topic with its possible shades of meaning. Then, I clearly stated my thesis statement around which the essay revolved. I believe that clear stance on the chosen topic, simple approach to paragraph construction, and relevant transitions of arguments reflected in my essay structure.



JWT: What was your strategy for the General Knowledge paper?

MST: I planned to limit myself to only passing marks because I know that I can't battle with this paper. Consulting the PPSC Big Book, GK by Sir Abdur Rasheed (both published by World Times Publications), and newspapers were my basic sources.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

MST: Writing is an expression of your reading on the topic. "The more, the merrier" applies here but within the allotted time. Prudently dividing the time to each question is vital to getting high scores. Writing speed and flow of thoughts decide how much time is there to allocate.

JWT: Is it better to attempt optional papers in Urdu or one should go with English only?

MST: This is entirely a personal choice. I don't think

examiners are biased towards either of them. Competency reflects itself on the paper regardless of the language one chooses.

JWT: How one should choose Optional Subjects?

MST: Knowledge-base and personal interest are the tools with which, I think, one should pick up one's optional subjects for PMS exam. Trends might help, but they are not a sound basis to ignite the quest for building the competency. If answers are not competent

unconditional love enabled me to be the very first civil servant across my generation. In the end, I would like to praise my tenacity for never giving up and optimism for always seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

JWT: As interviewers usually grill the candidates, how did you manage the situation?

MST: Interviews are usually a litmus test for your communication skills. I first understood their questions, then remained original in my expression and gave brief yet

Advice for Fresh Aspirants

Conquer your fears and steer your assumptions. Self-discipline is the tool that unlocks the hidden treasures in your selves.

enough, one cannot score well to secure the merit. The end matters along with the means. The more one is happy and interested in reading and learning one's chosen subjects, the more competent one becomes. Therefore, know the knowledge-base, build over it, and rely on your personal interest.

JWT: Who deserves the credit for your success?

MST: Everything flows down from Allah Almighty, I firmly believe. Along with it, my parents' unwavering belief in me and

impressive answers. Second, I managed to connect with the interviewers by maintaining eye contact, by matching their body languages, and by standing firm on my grounds. I think my confidence in letting them know what I know and what I don't know was a defining trait of my interview experience. In the end, taking control of the interview in your hands helps driving the whole process. Acknowledge your shortcomings but compensate that with your confidence, and politely assert yourself in the interview. ■

My Interview Experience

I was getting pretty much tense when I saw candidates leaving the room with sloppy shoulders because they were perhaps tightly grilled inside there. I mustered my composure and distracted myself out of the situation before I entered the room. I had managed my negative assumptions before my name was called out.

I entered the room with determination and greeted the panel before they asked me to take the seat. As it was my second experience with the chairman, he instantly recognised me and inquired as to why I couldn't get allocation in my previous attempt. Here lies the important turn. I didn't blame anything or anybody but I took the full responsibility of my weak spot of scoring less in Punjabi. Then, he asked me about solving the pressing issue of low tax rate in the country. I outlined a few brief solutions. Then, Mr Chairman directed Mr Nasir Durrani to proceed with the interview. With him, it was a thorough discussion on Hong Kong issue, Turkey and USA in Syria and how it relates with Taliban in Afghanistan, Islamic history, and other relevant questions which I answered well. I clearly told him what I had read and what I had not, and it facilitated us both.

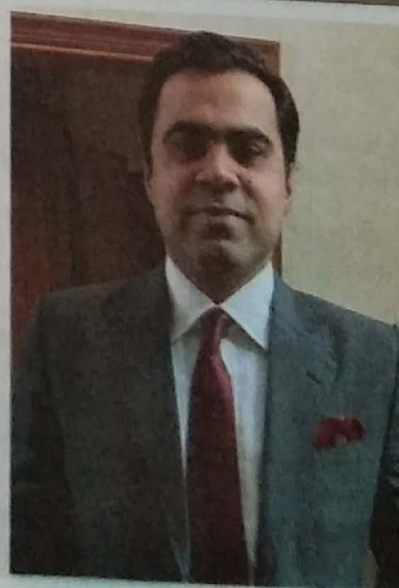
Next, I was directed towards Mr Seerat Asghar. I wanted to answer all his questions, so I had prepared well for his interests. Punjabi, public administration and psychology were my optional subjects; and, he touched all of these peripheries. When he asked me to differentiate between outcome and output in the public administration, I received his "shabaash" which touched every ear in the room. It was an energy-booster for me.

Last interviewer remained focused on political science and confronted me with some debate on the topic of sovereignty which transitioned towards treaties and American political system.

My interview went on for about 15 minutes and I enjoyed myself doing it. Although I couldn't answer all the questions, my answers were extracts of my knowledge. These relevant extracts were the reason behind such a short, yet successful, interview.

Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	Self-inspired
Attempts	03
Schooling medium	Urdu
Your qualification	M A Political Science and ACCA finalist
Alma mater	University of the Punjab
Your study schedule	4-6 hours a day
Your sources	Books, academic journals, newspapers, and research papers
Your strength	Integrity, precision, and time management
Hobbies & activities	Travelling
Fave personality	Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)
Fave book	Al-Quran
Fave quote	"It's not over until I win." — Les Brown
Secret of your success	Self-management
Your role model	My parents





"World Times magazine proved extremely instrumental in my success as it contained highly pertinent articles related to current affairs which helped me in English Essay and General Knowledge papers."

In Conversation with **BABAR ALI RAI**

16th in Punjab, PMS 2019-20

Jahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

Babar Ali Rai (BAR): I started from APS Quetta. Later, I did matriculation from Boys High School Mor Khunda in district Nankana Sahib.

After that, I enrolled myself in Government College University (GCU), Lahore, from where I completed FSc (pre-engineering) and graduated in Electrical Engineering.

JWT: How much helpful did you find Jahangir's World Times (JWT) in your preparation for PMS exam?

BAR: World Times magazine proved extremely instrumental in my success as it contained highly pertinent articles related to current affairs which helped me in English Essay and General Knowledge papers. JWT's Interview Series is

JWT Editorial Board
3. One MUST consult past papers and strictly follow the outline given by PPSC.

For General Knowledge paper:

Solve past papers besides preparing for it from online sources. Moreover, also understand how the examiner divides this paper into different portions. Then, prepare for all these portions separately from diverse sources to score exceptionally well in it. Do not rely on a single source. I know, aspirants mostly resort to solving past papers only, but the trend has changed now.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks in the written part of PMS exam?

BAR: I would suggest a three-point strategy for that:

First, understand what is being asked in the question statement, and set your domain of answer. Also, make a very short outline of it.

Second, write a well-structured answer with a succinct

Advice for Fresh Aspirants

Offer prayers regularly and have faith in Allah Almighty. Also, believe in your abilities. You should make your own notes by consulting at least 2 recommended books, besides going through research papers, newspapers and magazines like JWT. 'Reading more and writing more' is the key to success. Write as much as you can to ace this exam. High aim demands consistent hard work, loyalty and commitment to your goals, and utmost patience. Never feel disappointed when you face failure and impediments but learn from these by overcoming your weaknesses. Stay away from negative-minded people, and stay focused on your goals.

very helpful for the aspirants. I have been reading this magazine for many years.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to getting through compulsory papers of PMS exam, especially that of General Knowledge?

BAR: I believe an aspirant should follow these three things:

1. Read at least two recommended books and make your own notes.

2. Intelligent use of the Internet for extensive study on any topic (only from authentic sources).

introduction. Add relevant headings, diagrams, flowcharts and facts and figures in the body.

Third, try to add a paragraph containing your critical analysis on the topic prior to your conclusion.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay?

BAR: In essay paper, I believe the most important thing is the selection of the right topic. Take about 5 minutes to understand what is being asked in the topic statement, and then take a clear stance by directly hitting that. Logical and reasoned argumentation to support your stance, relevance

to the topic and coherence embellish your essay. I made rough outline and the introduction at the end of sheet. Then, I started to write essay from start by leaving first 4 pages blank. In last 15-20 minutes, I rewrote outline and introduction on those pages. Rough work allows modification and rephrasing of outline while writing an essay keeping in view the time limit. I believe a well-structured outline with succinct and lucid introduction play a pivotal role in your success in this crucial paper. I tried to build solid arguments from multiple angles and supported them with pertinent examples and facts. I would suggest that aspirants should make outline in sentence form.

JWT: What was your strategy for the General Knowledge paper?

BAR: For GK paper, I followed the contents given by PPSC and prepared every section

Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	Inspiration comes from within
Attempts	01
Schooling medium	Both Urdu and English
Your qualification	BSc. Electrical Engineering
Alma maters	GCU, Lahore
Your study schedule	6-8 hours a day
Your sources	Quality books, English newspapers, research papers, the Internet and JWT magazine
Your strength	Persistence, commitment and determination to achieve my goals.
Hobbies & activities	Travelling and exploring the beauty of Pakistan, playing cricket
Fave personality	Hazrat Ali (RA)
Fave book	The Magic of Thinking Big by David J. Schwartz
Fave quote	"Hard work beats the talent if talent doesn't work hard." — Tim Notke
Secret of your success	Persistent hard word work and parents' prayers.
Your role model	My father, Rai Zulfiqar Ali (Sub Major (R) Pak Army)

My Interview Experience

My interview experience was remarkably excellent. As I was already serving as Sub-Inspector in Lahore Police, it helped me a lot to maintain my body language strong and positive, and my confidence never shook during the interview. Mr Chairman and member Nasir Durrani looked very satisfied as I remained calm, composed and humble during the whole process. Moreover, I was asked multiple questions on my optional subject, i.e. Physics, and also on police reforms, current affairs and national and international issues. I answered with logic and reasoning to the satisfaction of the panellists.

For those who are preparing for the interview, I would like to give some tips:

separately. Computer, mathematics and science portions should be prepared from online sources as these sections do make a difference. Moreover, I solved many past papers and read English newspapers, Foreign Affairs magazine, Economist and world Times to stay updated on current affairs.



your success. So, two factors must be kept in mind while choosing optional subjects in PMS:

1. Your interest in the subject as well as your educational background.
2. Scoring trend of the subject and accessibility of the past papers.

JWT: Who deserves the credit for your success?

BAR: First of all, the credit for my success goes to my parents, brothers and my sister who always prayed for, encouraged and motivated me. Secondly, I am also indebted to my respected teachers, seniors and friends who guided me well in this journey.

JWT: As interviewers usually grill the interview candidates, how did you manage the situation?

BAR: Frankly speaking, the panellists did not grill me at all as my answers were very straightforward, logical and much satisfactory to them. Actually, your positive body language is a manifestation of unflinching self-confidence, and during 34-minute-long discussion with the panellists, my confidence did not shake even for a single moment, though I had to drop some questions. ■

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

BAR: I believe an answer must be to the point and relevant to what is being asked whether it takes only 2 pages. Do not exaggerate your answer to only fill up the sheets. Write as much as you can to justify your stance. However, the only limit one should keep in mind is that of time.

JWT: Is it better to attempt optional papers in Urdu or one should go with English only?

BAR: I think, it is more convenient to attempt optional papers in English. The books and other reading material is available mostly in English. So, one does face difficulties in attempting paper in Urdu.

JWT: How one should choose Optional Subjects?

BAR: Selection of optional subjects plays a vital role in

Jahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

Waseem Elahi Laghari (WEL): I did matriculation and intermediate from Khairpur. After that, I qualified medical entry test and got admission to MBBS at FMDC, Islamabad, where I am currently enrolled in final year. I applied for PCS exam in 2018 on the basis of a B.A degree, which I completed in 2017 from Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, as an external student.

JWT: How much helpful did you find Jahangir's World Times (JWT) in your preparation for PCS exam?

WEL: It is necessary for the candidates of competitive exams to keep themselves abreast of the day-to-day affairs of the country and the world. JWT was the single, most reliable source which catered for this need of mine. As an avid reader of JWT, I used to collect facts, figures, graphs and other data from it and quoted those in different papers of PCS exam. Moreover, JWT also provides valuable information about different dimensions of this exam such as subject-specific preparation tips and answer writing techniques. I remember, I used to cut the pieces of advice from JWT and paste them on my books and notes so as to remember what, and how, to do. Conclusively, JWT proved very beneficial for me in my journey.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to getting through compulsory papers of PCS exam?

WEL: Each paper presents with different challenges, and demands a separate approach. For example, the paper of

English Essay needs to be tackled differently from the paper of GK. Thus, subject-specific preparation strategies, preparation from quality materials and recommended books, and meticulous preparation of answer-writing is the key to getting through the compulsory papers of PCS exam.

Similarly, for sailing through the paper of GK, I would highly recommend analysis of past papers of the subject. This helps to understand spectrum of the questions and to select sources for a sound preparation.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks in the written part of PCS exam?

WEL: For writing a good-scoring answer, first understand the crux and dimensions of the question. Moreover, have a clear plan in mind as to what and how to write. All parts of a question must be elucidated clearly with facts, figures, diagrams, flowcharts and graphs, and different parts of an answer must also be connected to each other logically. Furthermore, answers should start with general introductions and end with specific conclusions.

My advice for fresh aspirants

Preparation for PCS is a journey which should be pursued with passion and determination. Rather than searching for shortcuts, handle the ups and downs of this journey with steadfastness. Do give your best and leave the rest to Almighty Allah.

JWT: What was your strategy for the General Knowledge paper?

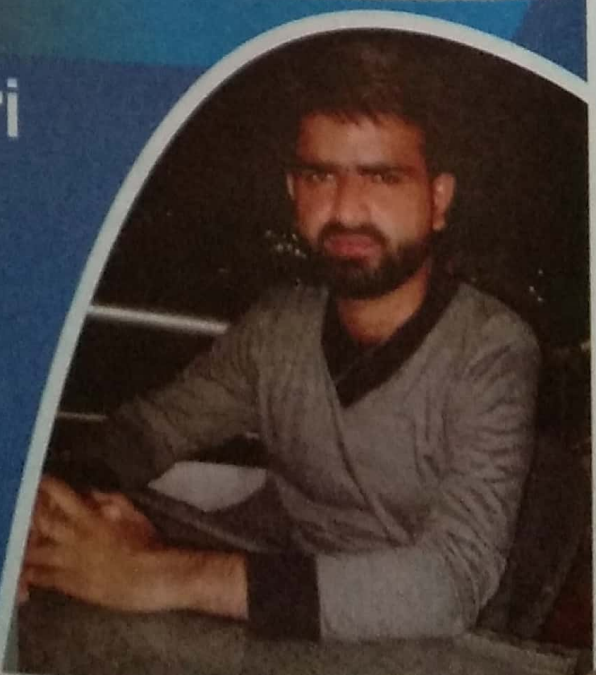
WEL: My primary sources to prepare for GK paper were the past papers of SPSC. I tried to solve as many of those as I could. Besides, I regularly read the newspapers and certain magazines like The Economist and JWT. Also, I consulted the books: Who is Who and What is What and JWT Current Affairs series.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

In Conversation with

Waseem Elahi Laghari
108th in Sindh, PCS 2018-19

“ I used to cut the pieces of advice from JWT and paste them on my books and notes so as to remember what to do and how to do. ”



My Interview Experience

My interview experience was memorable as it was my first-ever interview and I was the first candidate on the first day of interviews. I answered all questions with utmost honesty. Throughout the forty-minute interview, I remained at the mediocre level of confidence in my answers as well as in my body language. My interview was largely opinion-oriented and the questions were asked from my personal life, history of my district, international relations, world history and Pakistan Affairs. Almost 40 questions were asked; out of which, I answered around 28-32 questions.

WEL: Yes, making an allowance for word limit while answering questions is necessary for effective time management. Since, generally, all questions carry equal marks; therefore, they must be given equal time and the lengths of the answers should be equal.

JWT: Is it better to attempt optional papers in Urdu or one should go with English only?

WEL: It depends on the level of proficiency an aspirant has on both the languages. If an aspirant thinks that (s)he can attempt those very well in Urdu, (s)he should not hesitate in going for that. A well-articulated answer, whether written in Urdu or English, will surely fetch good marks.

JWT: How one should choose Optional Subjects?

WEL: For this, I would recommend a four-point strategy. First, educational background should be given topmost priority. As a student of medicine, I opted for Human Physiology despite the rumours that it is a low-scoring subject. Second, I selected International Relations due to my personal interest in

Detailed Marks Sheet

Subject	Marks
Compulsory Subjects	
English Essay	17
English Subjective	67
Essay in Sindhi	35
General Paper in Sindhi	79
General Knowledge	88
Optional Subjects	
International Relations	60
Human Physiology	76
Sindhi Literature	124
Total Written	546
Viva Voce	141
Grand Total	687



that subject. Third, choosing overlapping subjects is very beneficial for preparation. For example, I chose Sindhi Literature because it overlapped with two compulsory papers: Sindhi Essay and Sindhi Composition. Last seat should be given to scoring trend as it does exist.

JWT: Who deserves the credit for your success?

WEL: This success would not have been possible without the prayers and support of my mother. Moreover, my teachers, especially those from IBA Community College, Khairpur, played a pivotal role in turning me into something valuable. Apart from this, some of my near and dear friends, particularly Dr Zia Jakhrani, Faheem Elahi and Noshad Jiskani, also supported me in my journey. So, all these persons deserve credit for my success.

JWT: As interviewers usually grill the interview candidates, how did you manage the situation?

WEL: In my opinion, interviews of competitive exams are more like opinion-oriented discussions. The interviewers usually grill the candidates to check their confidence. In my interview, when I skipped a question of a panellist, he asked five more questions from similar subject to put me in hot water. Although I couldn't answer any of his six questions, yet I remained confident. Moreover, some interviewers themselves put forward their opinions about some question(s) and, then, candidates hesitate to put any contradictory opinions. This is a wrong approach. I politely contradicted opinions of the panellists by giving arguments, facts and figures. Through these techniques, I managed the situation and obtained 141 marks out of 150. ■

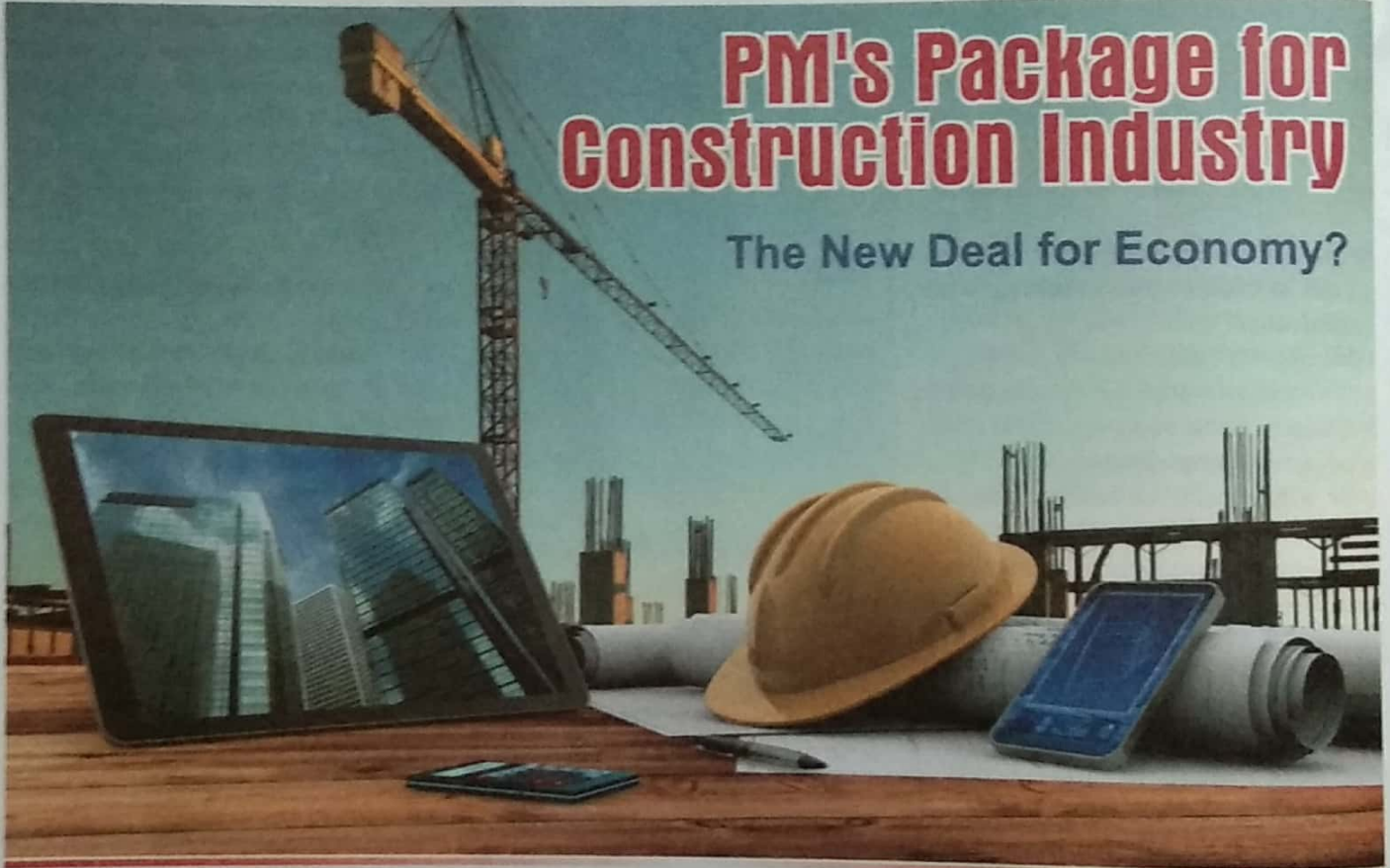
Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	My Mother
Attempts	01
Schooling medium	English
Your qualification	B.A, MBBS (currently enrolled)
Alma mater	Federal Medical and Dental College (FMDC), Islamabad
Your study schedule	6-8 hours a day
Your sources	Recommended books, newspapers, magazines and internet
Your strength	Extensive reading
Hobbies & activities	Reading books and Cooking
Fave personality	Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)
Fave book	Governing the Ungovernable by Ishrat Hussain
Fave quote	"Work hard in silence, let your success be your noise." — Frank Ocean
Secret of your success	Self-confidence, self-determination, and prayers of my parents
Your role model	A.D. Khawaja (Ex-IGP Sindh)

On April 03, Prime Minister Imran Khan announced a relief package for the construction industry with the twofold aim of providing employment to daily wage earners, and spurring economic activity. Besides giving this sector the status of an industry, the package also includes additional incentives for builders and developers to build low-cost housing for the poor under the Naya Pakistan Housing Programme. The proposed package contains direct and indirect tax relief measures and other economic incentives for constructors and developers. This is a good sign for the growth of overall economy as construction and development sector supports hundreds of related industries in country.

PM's Package for Construction Industry

The New Deal for Economy?



At a time when the market is uncertain and there are global developments hampering growth, Pakistan decided to look inwards to improve the economy. In the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, on April 03, announced what is termed by official quarters as a "comprehensive relief/stimulus package" for the construction sector. The package has been announced with a view to expand the ailing economy and to cushion the catastrophic impacts of lockdown in

the country. The government has also approved industry status for the construction sector after announcing establishment of a Construction Industry Development Board. The Tax Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, has also been formally promulgated to give effect to the much-awaited incentive package.

The construction sector is one of the largest sectors that accounts for 2.5 percent of the total GDP of Pakistan. According to Economic Survey of Pakistan 2018-19, the sector employs 8 percent of total labour force. It is also associated indirectly

Shafqat Javed
with 16 percent of the total employed people as more than 40 allied industries such as electronics, steel and Iron industry, wood products, and cement industry are directly related to the construction sector. Most importantly, according to Economic Survey statistics, the construction industry has replaced the energy sector in attracting the highest net foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$386.8 million in the FY 2019. According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2018-19, the construction sector experienced a negative growth of 7.57 percent in the FY 19



in a sharp contrast to a growth rate of 8.2 percent in the FY 18. As a result, allied industries in the construction sector didn't perform at optimal levels in the fiscal year. Low spending on PSDP in the last few years, the requirement of

builders. The sector would not be asked for the provision of the source of money in case of purchase or construction of residential or commercial buildings. The waiver of 90 percent tax will be granted to those investors who will invest their capital in the construction projects under the Naya Pakistan Housing Program (NPHP).

Mortgage financing will be provided for the low-cost construction of houses on very low interest rate of 6 percent. The high-rise construction policy has also been approved under the scheme. Withholding tax on all building material, except steel and cement, would not be charged. Developers and builders would get a tax credit with 10 multiples of the tax already paid under the scheme. Capital Gain Tax holding periods for constructing property have been fixed 3 years, instead of 4 years.

Overview of the Package

The main incentives, stimuli, reliefs at federal and provincial levels in addition to exempting construction sector from lockout from April 14, 2020, and establishment of Construction Industry Development Board to promote the sector, as reported in Press are:

Status of industry to construction sector

Prime Minister has already approved the status of industry for construction sector. However, implementation of this decision was recommended to be deferred till next budget by Ministry of Commerce and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). However, this decision is now implemented forthwith.

Rationalization of Capital Gains Tax (CGT)

- Rate of tax be reduced in accordance with/proportionate to the increase in the valuation table.
- CGT holding period for constructed property be reduced from 4 years to 3 years (as was the case prior to 2019).
- CGT holding period for real estate/plots may remain 8 years, however, the rate of tax may be significantly reduced on sliding scale from fourth year onwards.

Valuation of real state/plots

FBR has already initiated the process of fresh valuation of urban real estate in consultation with the real estate organizations of respective

cities. The process will be expedited as a part of package announced by the Prime Minister.

Rationalization/reduction in sales tax on construction material

To bring down the cost of construction, sales tax and excise duties levied on construction material are to be reduced suitably.

Tax incentives

Source of money on investment made till 31 December 2020 will not be probed under section 111 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.

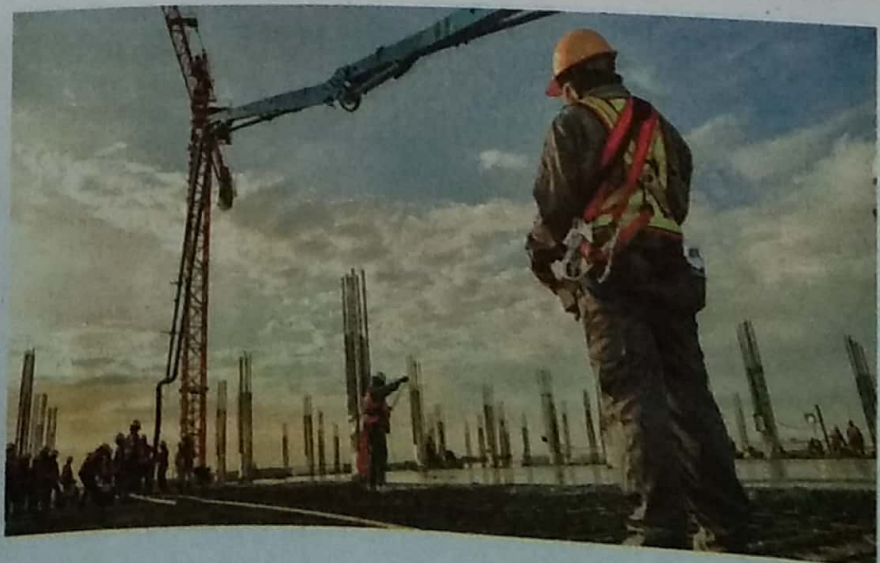
Withholding of tax by constructors on all construction-related material has been waived off, except on cement and iron.

Tax on builders and developers will be levied at fixed rates of Rs 50 per square foot for builders and Rs 100 per square yard for developers. Those carrying out projects under the Naya Pakistan Housing Program for the poor will only have to pay 10% of the fixed tax.

Sales tax on construction services shall be exempted by all provinces, provided the builders and developers are chargeable to sales tax at fixed rates mentioned above, at the time of sale of property.

Low-cost housing schemes by NPHP provincial housing authorities will be completely exempted from provincial sales taxes by all provinces. All provincial/municipal

taxes/duties/fees/levies/charges on transfer/registration of urban



money trail from investors, assessment of income, actual valuation of real estate by FBR, requirement of CNIC, restriction on sale of construction material, restriction on non-registered clients on transactions worth more than Rs.10 million were some bottlenecks that had prevented the investors from pouring their capital into the sector. It resulted in the dismal performance of construction and its allied industries.

Under the incentive scheme for the sector, that has been enforced after the promulgation of presidential ordinance, fixed tax regime irrespective of the profit margins will be introduced for the developers and



Fresh valuation of real estate, substantial reduction in sales tax and federal excise duty on construction material, exemption of all taxes including CGT on first purchase or

help to mediate the shocks of lockdown by providing employment to skilled, semi-skilled, non-skilled, daily wagers, and labourers in the current situation, while on the other hand, it will not only help in overcoming the housing units in Pakistan, but will also stimulate the economic boom in the long term. It will help to overcome economic stagnation — that was prevalent in the last few years — by circulation of cash in the market and pouring domestic money as well as FDI in the country. Pakistan is the country of 207 million people with a very high population growth of 2.1 percent. Its population is expected to reach 403 million by 2050, according to a UN report. The country is facing a severe shortage of housing units. According to the World Bank Report, there is a total backlog of 10 million housing units amidst a demand of

properties are to be clubbed under one head and charged at the rate of 2% of valuation.

E-stamping system is being introduced by all provinces in line with the system already introduced by Punjab and it will be expedited.

Exemption of taxes on first house

Construction, purchase/sale of first house should be exempted from all taxes, including capital gains tax.

Establishment of special circles

FBR to expedite establishment of already approved automated special circles for construction industry to ensure easy and transparent tax collection.

Measures for creating ease of doing business

The process of fresh master planning/updating of existing master plans and zoning already initiated by provinces may be expedited.

Reduction in project approval time (preferably to 45 days), by all provincial governments/respective development authorities by issuing No-objection Certificates (NOCs), automation and concurrent processing of approvals, strictly in accordance with laid down timelines. Wherever possible, NOC regime be replaced with compliance of bylaws regime (after introducing fresh zoning bylaws).

All provinces/development authorities are in the process of introducing

fully automated one-window portals for processing approvals and all other client services/facilitation and it will be expedited.

Policy on high-rise construction has already been approved by the Prime Minister. Notification to this effect has been issued for Islamabad Capital Territory (CT), however, the same has yet not been issued for other major cities/urban areas that must be done on priority basis.

Housing/mortgage financing

Subsidy of Rs 30 billion is announced for projects of NPHP. In line with 7% interest rate offered to industries for Greenfield Projects, subsidy/lower rates (preferably 6%) be afforded for housing mortgage of one hundred thousand low-cost housing units, construction of which is planned to be initiated in the current year.

Legal issues – civil procedures ordinance/special benches

Ministry of Law and Justice is working on a Civil Procedures Ordinance for ICT, which after approval will be shared with provincial governments, for implementation in all provinces. The Law Ministry is also working on constitution of special benches for hearing civil disputes/cases concerning real estate/construction sector.

sale of a house for a family are also part of the incentive program. Subsidy of Rs30 billion would be granted under NPHP. The construction sector has been granted a full status of industry; and for the promotion of the sector, Construction Industry Development Board would be constituted.

There would be multitudes of short-term and long-term benefits of the incentive scheme for the construction sector; on the one hand, it will



building 400,000 housing units annually. According to a recent study by the Urban Unit in Punjab, there are 68 percent plots in recognised housing schemes are vacant. With the exemption of withholding tax on building material, reduction of sales tax and excise duty on construction material and a waiver of 90 percent tax on the condition of investment in NPHP will prompt investors to construct low cost houses on vacant plots. These

initiatives will help overcome the shortage of housing units in Pakistan.

Creation of jobs and pouring of domestic and foreign investment into the sector will provide, on the one hand, employment to the labourers and daily wage workers during the pandemic, while on the other hand, will spur economic growth in the country. Investment in the construction sector will build new housing units, high-rise buildings, and commercial centres; consequently, it will reduce rents and improve



impossible for the middle and lower middle class to acquire property.

Similarly, some developers and builders might build homes under NPHP to distant places without taking into account the factors of targeting, long-term affordability, occupancy, maintenance, community development and social infrastructure. Poor choice of location and designs, a focus

on quantity over quality and looming risk of corruption in the projects are some serious and major concerns which

A cursory look at the package

The main incentives announced by the Prime Minister include:

1. Those who will invest in the industry this year will not be questioned about their source of income.
2. Fixed tax will be introduced in the construction sector and if the investor invests in construction projects under Naya Pakistan Housing Program, 90% fixed tax will be removed and he will only pay 10% tax.
3. Withholding tax on construction will be lifted from all sectors, except steel and cement.
4. There will be no capital gain tax for a family that sells its house.
5. The tax rate will be fixed for the construction sector, and constructors will be charged tax per square foot or square yard.
6. A subsidy of Rs. 30 billion is being given to Naya Pakistan Housing Program to spur the construction activities.
7. Sales tax is being reduced in coordination with the provinces, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have agreed to reduce it to two percent.
8. Construction Industry Development Board to be set up to support the sector.
9. Rate of tax will be reduced in accordance with / proportionate to the increase in the valuation table.
10. CGT holding period for constructed property be reduced from 4 years to 3 years (as was the case prior to 2019).
11. CGT holding period for real estate / plots may remain 8 years, however the rate of tax may be significantly reduced on sliding scale from fourth year onwards.
12. While declaring their net wealth, builders and developers will be eligible to take credit / impute income equal to 10 times of tax paid under this schedule.

quality of life. Improved infrastructure will give a boost to businesses, thereby creating more jobs. Enhanced business activity and expansion of the economy will raise per capita income of people, which will help in the reduction of poverty in the country.

There are some challenges too which entail the formulation of well-articulated standard of procedures and mechanisms in order to protect the interest of end-users under the scheme. The incentive scheme can lead the surging rates of properties and make it

demand vigilance in order to strike a balance between the interest of end-users and the construction sector. ■



Zohaib Ahmed

With the passage of time, the use of plastic has increased exponentially to the extent that it is now a dilemma. It is widely used; as per statistics, around 300 million ton annually. According to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), at least 5 trillion plastic bags are used every year—around one million per minute. Isn't it too much?

Plastic is one the main contributors to pollution which is having drastic effects not only on our health but also on our finances. It is a major cause of marine pollution as it takes up to 1000 years to decompose. Fish and other marine animals are being killed by plastic—reports suggest that more than 100000 marine species die due to the intake of plastic in the oceans.

Besides marine pollution, plastic adds also to air pollution. Household and commercial garbage and waste, too, have a significant amount of plastic. Burning this garbage has adverse impact on the atmosphere and the air quality. When we breathe

this polluted air, several respiratory diseases are caused which lead to a significant number of deaths annually.

The situation in Pakistan is also precarious as far as the use of plastic is concerned. According to a survey, 12 million bags were used in Pakistan in 1990-91 but this number soared to 43 billion in 2015 and 55 billion in 2017. Use of plastic has grown because people find it preferable to buy packaged products like milk, water, etc. Since it is not readily decomposable, plastic turns into landfills and grounds. Owing to this, large areas have which once were used for their grazing, have been converted into landfills and waste disposal sites. Animals, while grazing, ingest the plastic waste; as a result they get poisoned, and ultimately they die.

However, it is not an unsolvable problem. Use of plastic can be curtailed by taking some serious, calculated steps. Firstly, plastic bags should be banned and replaced by reusable or bio-degradable plastic bags. Secondly, plastic bottles can be substituted with reusable bottles. Next to it, containers that are made of plastic should be replaced with glass or silicone containers. Furthermore, provincial governments should formulate laws to ban plastic, and promote environment-friendly bags such as bio-degradable bags and containers, within their territories. The examples of Islamabad and Sindh, which prohibited the use of plastic last year, should be followed.

To conclude, plastic has become one of the major pollutants in current times all over the world. It shares in all main types: water, land and air pollution. If the same situation continues, it will create more chaos and damage to the mankind as well as the societies. But the plastic is controllable if it is mainstreamed and measured accurately. It can be hoped that the future will be plastic- and pollution-free. ■

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Invention of plastic was a smart move but no one knew that it will be turned into a nightmare. Plastic consists of synthetic or semi-synthetic organic compounds. It was used as a replacement of ivory or tortoise shell in the 1800s.

It is made by hydrocarbons: gas, oil and coal. It has been a smart packaging solution such as for electronic gadgets, cosmetics, shopping, bottle containers, etc.

PLASTIC POLLUTION

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Today, the world is standing on the verge of an absolute rupture due to highly-traumatic pandemic called Covid-19 that has been triggered by the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Meanwhile, a hyperopic view of current scenario leads us towards an undeniable fact that this pandemic is 'a blessing in disguise'. In the very beginning of the current year, the United Nations health agency, that is, 'World Health Organization' declared a pandemic emergency across the globe due to rapid spread of this virus. Originating from Wuhan, a city in China's Hubei province, it has affected almost every state around the globe.



All the scientific research, experiences, pharmaceuticals and tools reportedly, failed so far in discovering an antidote to Covid-19. However, since this contagion spreads through human touch and breathing in air contaminated by the virus, the only precautionary measures have left helpful are avoiding human interaction, social distancing, living

isolation or more specifically quarantining oneself.

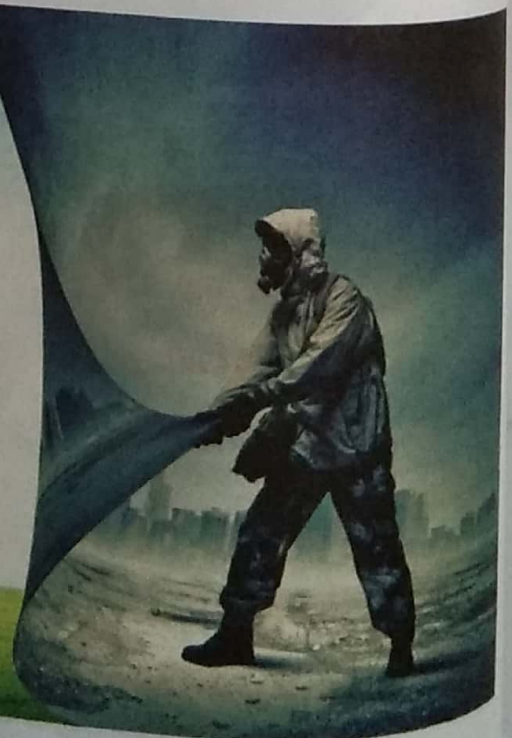
There is a complete lockdown in the world with dreadful silence on the roads. Trading, businesses and educational activities have borne the most brunt of it. The question that arises here is: when this morbidity has really shoved the world to the edge of collapse, then how come it is a blessing in disguise? The answer precisely lies in the gravity of this issue when analysed by using the lens of hyperopia. Although the world is experiencing catastrophic ramifications of Covid-19, yet it has many blessings under its umbrella:

Covid-19 has proved to be a harbinger of unity and cooperation among all the states. It has brought all the states, irrespective of their financial and political statuses, on the same table. As this ailment is not discriminatory in nature, and hence does not affect only impoverished ones, everyone stands equal before it. Pandemics don't distinguish on the basis of material progress, religious beliefs, territorial boundaries, or racial qualities; their catastrophic impacts reach everyone like the rays of the sun. Secondly, it has thrown a sense of realization upon the world's hegemony about the sufferings and deficiencies of the poor and oppressed states like Kashmir, Palestine and Syria. It has also sketched recourse to palliate the sufferings triggered by the bigwigs in the name of democracy/sovereignty or authority and self-defence. The world seemed moving towards neo-imperialism and there was a massive race among world hegemony in military, political and economic spheres. The news with headlines like USA built Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean to counter China's String of Pearls, Rivalry on South and East China Sea, US-China Trade War, Revival of Cold War between Russia and the United States, USA pulls out of Iran Nuclear Deal and so on, had overwhelmed the media. But Covid-19 effected a swift shift in their concerns by taking first place and suppressing their false priorities being made at the cost of welfare of their masses.

Thirdly, Covid-19 has fully exposed the materialistic lust chased by man in the

Covid-19

A blessing in disguise



contemporary era. The nukes, mighty dollar, unbeatable military strength and un-daunting intelligentsia seem

"COVID-19 is causing health emergencies and economic disruptions that no single stakeholder can address."

Klaus Schwab
Founder and Executive Chairman,
World Economic Forum

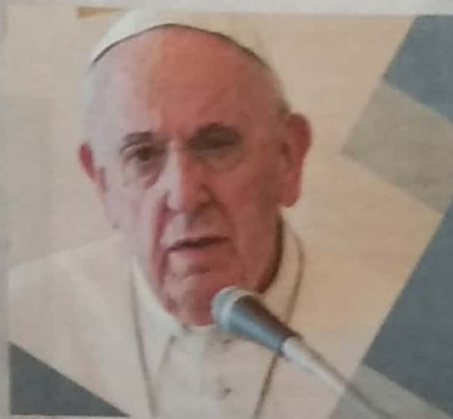


Fifthly, Covid-19 is a blessing in disguise as it has exposed lacunas in governance systems of countries throughout the world. It has also shown to the world that health sector is one of the most neglected fields in almost all states. No country is currently able to facilitate its citizens in the hour of calamity. Even the countries with economic might are failing in the provision of basic medical facilities. This worst-hitting trauma is clamouring and calling upon the world leaders to focus on "saving humanity than killing it." Contemporarily, no country is sufficiently prepared to accommodate all its citizens if hit by a virus. Had the Covid-19 not become a pandemic, the world would have not been able to come to know about

helpless, and people are desperately looking with teary eyes at their loved ones dying in their hands. It has led people to mosques, temples, synagogues, churches and other places of worship. Everybody is reverting to its faith, begging mercy from their Lord. Even the atheists and polytheists are looking for a miracle to happen from the Magnificent Power residing in the heavens.

Fourthly, despite a persisting rivalry, diverse cultures, uncommon religious beliefs and thoughts, and divergent civilizations, states are cherishing mutual concerns and getting closer in order to seek help from each other.

The whole world is working like a family to find the cure for this killer virus. The United States, for instance, is ready to take the guidance on combatting coronavirus from China. It means rivalry, tussle and animosity are no longer serving their interests. If the United States with a substantial military might can seek cooperation from its main rival, i.e. China, for its people, then everything can be done for the people beyond materialistic, territorial and religious boundaries. Coronavirus brings a universal message of cooperation and betterment of the people.



"We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other."

Pope Francis I

the deficiencies in the medical sector.

Finally, the most important blessing from Covid-19 comes in the form revival of nature. Nature has once again proved to be magnificent and gracious towards mankind. It looks as if it had overlooked environmental disturbances caused by man. The birds are singing the verses of freedom without any fear of being caught and caged. Water is expressing its blue hue. Natural habitat is revamping. Atmosphere is becoming more human-friendly. Marine life is paying humble tribute.

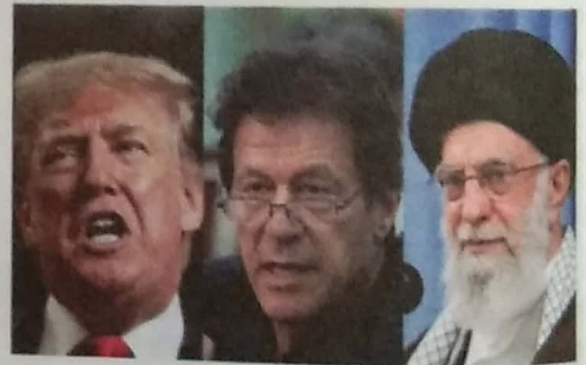
To conclude, there is no final feeling about anything. We cannot overlook the traumatic destruction caused by this pandemic. Howbeit, every calamity comes with the bounty of lessons. It is the man who has to absorb the message hidden in the garb of curse by creating panacea for outward diseases. Covid-19 is a warning call for man to explore his drawbacks and to re-align his priorities for his own good by putting everything else behind the curtain. **E**

The writer is a PhD scholar and a competitive exams aspirant.



Global Power Dynamics and Pakistan's Foreign Policy

- a. Introduction
- b. A new World Order
 - i. New alliances among NATO countries, and Russia
 - ii. Decline in UK's role in international politics, and Brexit
 - iii. Resurgence of Russia in world politics
 - iv. Power struggle between the United States and China
 - v. Alliance between Israel and the Arab world
 - vi. Changing power dynamics in the Middle East
 - vii. China's BRI, and the CPEC opportunity for Pakistan
- c. Decline in the role and influence of international organizations (e.g. UN, EU) as impartial brokers in conduct of relations between and among nations
- d. Preference for strongmen in democracies across the world and autocratic rule after getting elected
- e. Competition among powers in West Asia (Syria), Middle East, Crimea, South China Sea and the Indian Ocean
- f. Shifting regional alliances
 - i. Pakistan and Arab alliance and Pak-Saudi relations
 - ii. Pakistan-Iran relations and delicate balancing of neutrality between Saudi Arabia and Iran in the wake of an isolated and imperilled Iran
 - iii. Pakistan and Afghanistan peace process and withdrawal of US occupation forces
 - iv. Pakistan and its frayed relationship with a hegemonic Indian establishment and Kashmir issue
 - v. Arab relations with India and issue of Kashmir
 - vi. Turkey-Iran-Malaysia summit and Pakistan's role in bloc led by these countries
- g. Trade war and competition for more resources and regional hegemony
 - i. An era of new cold war but through a new means of economy, trade, expansion in influences of superpowers
 - ii. Supremacy in diplomacy through trade and economic sanctions
 - iii. US hegemony in international financial institutions, and through dollar trade
- h. Foreign policy options for Pakistan
 - i. Strict neutrality in diplomacy and safeguard of national interests
 - ii. Economic revival and promotion of the country's soft image
 - iii. Balanced relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran
 - iv. Resolution of Kashmir issue and concerted efforts to highlight the Kashmir cause
 - v. CPEC opportunity and cementing of trade and strategic relations with China
 - vi. Active participation in organizations like UN, EU, SCO, ASEAN, SAARC and OIC to protect Pakistan's national interests
 - vii. Moral support of the Palestinian struggle and two-state solution
- i. Conclusion



ESSAY OUTLINES

Pakistan's Informal Economy: The Way Forward

Muhammad Sulaiman

- a. Introduction
 - i. Involves business and commerce bypassing legal channels of business
 - ii. Large part of economy not documented and without any trail of origin and end
 - iii. Informal economy deals in cash, informal receipts and trading vouchers
 - iv. No clue for the taxman to tax business transactions
- b. Why informal economy?
 - i. Developing economy and issue of literacy
 - ii. Segmented economy and different sectors relying on cash
 - iii. Low density of consumer awareness and business solutions available to individuals and businesses
 - iv. Banking and trade institutions not integrated with each other
 - v. Economy not integrated and developed to use financial instruments for business and other personal or expense-related transactions
 - vi. Cultural issue of dealing in cash and avoiding credit
- c. Disadvantages of informal economy
 - i. Economy is not documented
 - ii. People are excluded from inclusive growth offered by documented sectors of the economy
 - iii. Lacks incentives for labour and unskilled workers and deprives them of social, health and economic protections under various labour laws
 - iv. Less investment in capacity building of the labour and their skill development
 - v. May not be used in productive business generation
 - vi. Used predominantly in consumption business
 - vii. Doesn't contribute to GDP of a country in real terms
 - viii. Leaves no money trail for the taxman
 - ix. Doesn't allow authentic measurement of the volume of a business
 - x. Doesn't allow accurate levy of tax
 - xi. Spurs corruption and financial malpractice
 - xii. Can be misused in terror financing, or land in wrong

- hands
- xiii. Can encourage smuggling and purchase of contraband articles
- xiv. Can attract FATF blockades and economic sanctions
- xv. Can create artificial bubbles in different sectors of the economy
- xvi. Can slow the pace of a formal economy by siphoning capital to an informal economy
- xvii. Is highly monopolized by strong mafias
- xviii. Employs children and encourages child labour
- xix. Deprives children of education and further marginalizes female population

d. How to tackle informal economy

- i. Increase business awareness, literacy and e-commerce
- ii. Incentivise formal registration with tax authorities and utility and service-providing industry
- iii. Introduce one-window integration so that one identity number could work across all financial institutions
- iv. Interlink FBR, NADRA, banks, utility companies and other retail businesses
- v. Introduce ease-of-doing-business reforms and make taxation process easy and foolproof
- vi. Open integrated feedback channel and robust help lines to redress grievances and complaints of the businessmen
- vii. Offer tax incentives for conducting a major percentage of business transactions through bank and formally-approved channels of payments
- viii. Integrate system of payments through banks and mobile transfers for import sector to retail and wholesale sectors
- ix. Build useful mobile applications to facilitate banking and doing business
- x. Tackle smuggling and purchase of contraband items



- xi. Target specific business sectors (retail/wholesale and community and social services) and sectors of economy such as agriculture and small-scale manufacturing
 - xii. Identify untapped areas to increase documentation of economy and tax revenue
 - xiii. Introduce cashless business culture and strong ethical values to declare business volumes, sales and purchases
 - xiv. Introduce amnesty schemes after establishing a tight noose around undocumented sectors of the economy
 - xv. Employ a mix of legislation to gradually phase out child labour, make Worker Welfare Fund (WWF), Worker Profit Participation Fund (WPPF) fully enforced and business incentives to discourage informal business
 - xvi. Collaboration with ILO and other international labour organizations to introduce best practices, reforms and new management
- e. Conclusion

Promoting Tourism in Pakistan: Opportunities and Challenges

a. Introduction

b. Opportunities

- i. Cultural, religious and tourist attractions
- ii. Diverse landscape, weather and geological formations
 - 1. Snow-capped mountains, glaciers
 - 2. Mountain climbing and trekking
 - 3. Desert rallies and camping
 - 4. National parks, forestry and horticulture
 - 5. Indus Valley Civilization attraction
- iii. Expansion of business and commerce
- iv. Literary, sports and shopping festivals to boost trade and cultural exchanges
- v. Incentive for foreign direct investment
- vi. Investment in infrastructure and development
- vii. Development of hospitality, ICT and services



industry

- viii. Development of software theme parks near tourist attractions
- ix. Employment opportunities for youth
- x. Research activities in collaboration with foreign universities
- xi. People-to-people contacts and projection of soft image of Pakistan
- xii. Boost to diplomacy through tourism and cultural interactions
- xiii. Relaxation in tourist visa conditions and online applications for entry
- xiv. Examples of religious, cultural and literary tourism
- xv. Establishment of specific areas for cultural, scientific and religious heritage
- xvi. Gurudawara Kartarpur Saheb for Sikhs in Punjab, and Buddhism's sacred sites in KP

c. Challenges

- i. Security concerns and law and order situation
- ii. Unnecessary verifications and issues in travel across different regions
- iii. Slow processing of travel documents and bureaucratic hiccups
- iv. Improvement in road infrastructure, transport services and walk-pathways required
- v. Digital tourist maps and access to locations with integrated services through custom-based application not available

- vi. Poor integration of tourism promotion departments among different provinces
- vii. Lack of advertisement of tourist attractions and Pakistan as a tourist destination
- viii. Poor efforts to build the soft image of Pakistan
- ix. Underutilizing the soft strength and influence of Pakistani diaspora in different countries
- x. Lack of facilities in remote areas of tourist attraction

- xi. Issue of internet connectivity and e-banking services
 - xii. Promotion of tourism plans through embassies of Pakistan
 - xiii. Lack of trained guides familiar for interaction and communication
 - xiv. Cultural artefacts, museums and theme parks not available along major tourist attractions
- d. Conclusion

I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it.

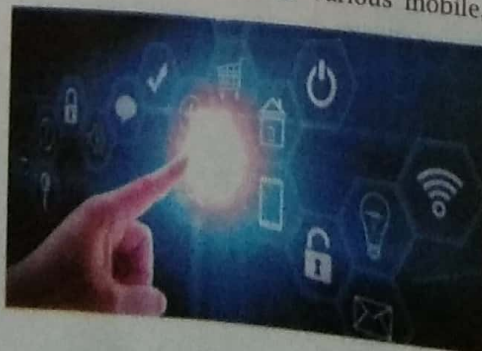
- a. Introduction
- b. Two important values mentioned here, which hold immense appeal as well
 - i. Freedom to express
 - ii. Agreement with expression is immaterial
- c. No restrictions or punishments to be placed on freedom of speech, expression and thought
- d. Value given to an individual's right to express without any shackles or any restrictions
- e. Individual, and its free thought, is important for the progress of the society and culture, and advancement towards modernity
- f. Open-minded and rational individuals use thoughts and words to express doubt, facts, realities and ideals
- g. Criticism, satire, humour and rebuke are all unsavoury forms of critique which may be despised by autocratic rulers or regimes
- h. Brakes to development are applied when expression is restricted
- i. Various instances of novel thought and its expression or expression of a thought when anything contrary to popular belief was profane:
 - i. Aristotle
 - ii. Copernicus
 - iii. Galileo
 - iv. John Locke
 - v. Voltaire
 - vi. Darwin
- j. Selective expression of thought not advisable as it kills the

- spirit of veracity and investigation
- k. It is a recipe for investigation, introspection, toleration by looking at:
 - i. What caused an event and what effects it had?
 - ii. What motivated the issue and how it could be analysed threadbare?
 - iii. What questions should be asked to establish authenticity?
 - iv. What limits are prescribed for expression of thought?
 - v. Are there any holy cows or any profane domains or any sacrilegious contents?
 - vi. How to safeguard the individual liberties?
 - vii. How to protect rights of individuals?
 - l. Conclusion



Is Pakistan Ready for Digital Revolution?

- a. Introduction
- b. New digital tools and solutions established to conduct business and commerce
 - i. Digital revolution due to smart phones, readily-available mobile applications, business and customer care applications by businesses and service providers
 - ii. Mobile internet density penetration to increase transactions and business volumes
 - iii. Customer-centric solutions and services to boost sales
 - iv. Innovative technologies and less capital intensive investment to improve ease and cost of doing business
 - v. More options available to consumers and business to attract audience worldwide
 - vi. Cheap internet and data bundles to facilitate lightning-fast communications



- vii. Remote applications to provide end-to-end interaction and more business expansion
- viii. Banking, software, remote applications for controlling entire manufacturing facilities are part of new digital revolution
- ix. Data is the new gold as it is cheaper, easier to handle and provides seamless connectivity
- c. Young population can contribute in robust learning
- d. Various mobile, data and telecommunication facilities available
- e. Large consumer market available to experiment and find out new turnkey solutions for wholesale, retail and services industry
- f. Opportunity through CPEC to launch fibre-optic network across the country to speed up communication
- g. Better coordination among various mobile application- and solution-providing companies to facilitate

- businesses
- h. More investment from government and other digital tech giants to pave the way for digital communication
 - i. Arrival of Alibaba, Mastercard, Google and Facebook to facilitate business and economy
 - j. Pakistan benefit from digital revolution by raising awareness and literacy
 - k. It can target audience which can be easily apprised of digital tools for marketing, business and software

development

- l. Online banking, payment and shopping to be made more fashionable and accessible
- m. Information and communications technologies (ITCs) to be adopted
- n. Incentives and exemptions to be offered to attract more investors

IMF bailouts: Roads to Stability or Recipes for Disaster

a. Introduction

b. Issues of Pakistan's economy

i. Declining exports of Pakistan

1. Policy to boost exports and competitiveness of products in international markets
2. Narrow industrial base causing stagnation of manufacturing sector
3. Problem of de-industrialization

ii. Increase in fuel prices

iii. Slashing of development expenditure

iv. Fiscal deficit and poor revenue generation

1. Problems of tax bureaucracy
2. Revenue collection shortfall
3. Low tax-to-GDP ratio

v. Current Account Deficit as threat to stabilization of economy

vi. Investor confidence

vii. Dearth of foreign direct investment

c. IMF deal:

- i. On July 3, 2019, the Executive Board of IMF approved a 39-month arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan for an amount of US\$6 billion
- ii. Program to achieve stabilization

1. Stabilization policy is a macroeconomic strategy enacted by governments and central banks to maintain healthy levels of economic growth and minimize price changes. Sustaining a stabilization policy requires monitoring the business cycle and adjusting benchmark interest rates to control aggregate demand in the economy.

iii. Program requires structural reforms

1. Structural reforms are essentially the measures that change the fabric of an economy, the institutional and regulatory framework in which businesses and people operate. They are designed to ensure the economy is fit and better able to realize its growth potential in a balanced way.

- Tax revenue generation
- Reform of tax machinery
- Broadening of tax net
- Phasing out subsidies

- Recovery of fuel costs through price adjustments (power sector)
- Privatization of loss-making PSEs
- Managing demand and supply
- Ease of doing business

d. Objectives:

- i. to reduce economic vulnerabilities and generate sustainable and balanced growth
- ii. fiscal consolidation to reduce public debt by greater tax revenue generation
- iii. Averting balance of payment crisis due to trade imbalance
- iv. reduction in current account deficit (CAD) by boosting foreign exchange reserves of the central bank and reduction in imports
- v. Higher import tariffs so as to cut imports
- vi. Credit ratings to improve
- vii. build resilience while expanding social spending
- viii. a flexible, market-determined exchange rate to restore competitiveness
- ix. rebuild official reserves
- x. to eliminate quasi-fiscal losses in the energy sector
- xi. to strengthen institutions and enhance transparency

e. The Executive Board's approval allows for an immediate disbursement of US\$1 billion. The remaining amount will be phased over the duration of the program, subject to four quarterly reviews and four semi-annual reviews

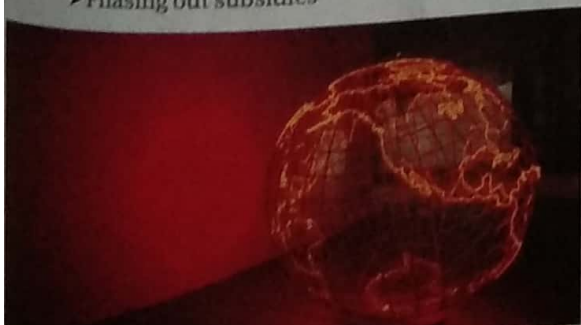
f. Issues with IMF deal and impact on the economy

- i. Increase in inflation due to higher value of imports, fuel prices and weaker devalued rupees
- ii. Loss in value of rupee due to floating market determined exchange rate
- iv. Higher fuel prices due to lower rupee value versus dollar
- v. High interest rates and higher cost of borrowing which would dent business growth as more and more businesses would avoid borrowing from banks
- vi. Slowing down of economic growth due to economic stabilization plan of IMF
- vii. Circular debt and power sector losses to be passed on to consumers

g. Critical examination of IMF plan

- i. Slows down economy as imports decline and manufacturing halts
- ii. Only relieves pressure on external account for a brief time
- iii. Government expenditure and expenses reduces as government goes for belt tightening
- iv. Government spends less to avoid fiscal deficit but it doesn't generate economic activity since many businesses thrive on government spending and business creation
- v. Halts employment creation and adds to poverty

h. Conclusion



'Disaster' is defined as a sudden and great misfortune or calamity whereas an event or occurrence that provokes or triggers disaster is called 'hazard'. It is a natural or manmade phenomenon that may cause physical damage and loss of lives, as well as economic loss, or threaten human life and wellbeing if it occurs in an area of human settlement, agriculture or industrial activity.

Islamic Teachings about Disasters and Coronavirus

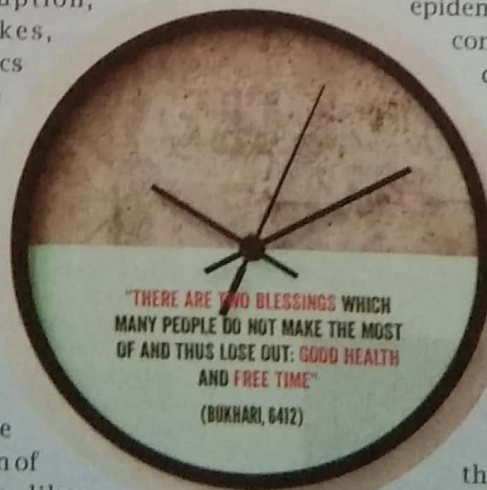


There are three kinds of disasters or hazards, namely: natural hazards, manmade hazards and combination of both. Natural disasters are those caused by nature like drought, floods, volcanic eruption, tornados, earthquakes,

tsunami and outbreak of pandemics like coronavirus and epidemics like diarrhoea, Ebola and dengue. Manmade disasters are associated with human activities such as arms race, Industrial Revolution, energy-generation, designs of big powers for creating their hegemony, etc., and include wars or civil strife, law and order incidents, pollution or environmental hazards, nuclear radiations, etc. The third kind of disasters is a combination of natural and manmade hazards like earthquakes in developing countries. Owing to lack of preparedness and non-compliance of safety rules and building codes, earthquakes cause more losses in developing countries as compared to those in developed

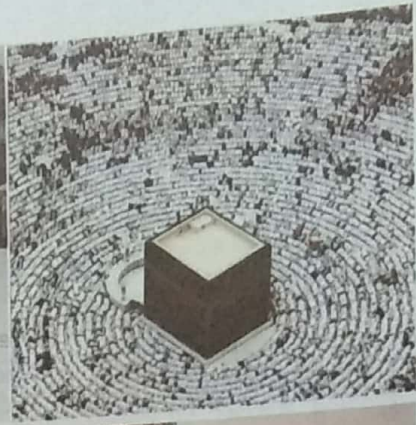
ones. In this case, coming of earthquakes is a natural factor and loopholes and shortcomings of human beings and insufficient state machinery are manmade factors. In the same way, outbreak of pandemics and epidemics in developing countries is a combination of natural and manmade disasters. People living in such countries are more vulnerable to the 'demics' due to unhygienic conditions as a large number of people in such areas defecate in open, and their public buildings stink of stale urine and are littered with rubbish. Furthermore, these areas are awash with heaps of garbage and their people do not have access to clean potable drinking water. Such unpleasant things/practices are uncommon in developed countries.

Throughout history, human beings have confronted numerous disasters of all kinds. We find references to different disasters in the holy books of all religions. The Holy Quran is also replete with incidents of



such disasters. Islam accentuates on protecting humanity from eternal disaster of hell they may face in the life after death, if they do not come to the right path as ordained by Allah Almighty. In the Holy Quran, there are references about nations of previous prophets that were obliterated due to disobedience of prophets and on account of their misdeeds. For instance, the nation of Prophet Noah (AS), including his son, was destroyed by the disaster of flash flood; as they were adamant on not abandoning their false dogmas and wrong deeds. The nations of Aad and Smood have been mentioned many times in the Holy Quran. Allah Almighty sent Hazrat Hud (AS) for guidance of Aad but they refuted the right path and, resultantly, were destroyed in a disaster of high winds. Hazrat Saleh (AS) was sent for guidance of people of Samood but they mocked the miracles and signs of Allah Almighty and, hence, they were destroyed through a shrill cry and tremor. The Holy Quran mentions also the nation of Hazrat Lut (AS) that was punished through the disaster of earthquake and rain of stones as they were practicing the evil deed of sodomy. Then, there is also the mention of the nation of Hazrat Shoaib (AS) that indulged in highway robberies and weighing less. Allah Almighty sent flames of fire upon them and then the earth shook with a severe jolt and a shrill cry that finished them once and for all. Allah Almighty expressed His wrath on the people of Hazrat Musa (AS) in the shape of different disasters as mentioned in **verse No.133 of Surah Araaf / Chapter The Wall with Elevation** that states, "So We sent on them: the flood, the locusts, the lice, the frogs and the blood as manifest signs, yet they remained arrogant. They were of those people who were criminals."

Unfortunately, all the vices owing to which people of previous prophets were obliterated are present in Muslims of present age in one way or another. But on account of supplications of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), we are safe from complete annihilation. However, the disasters of people of yore mentioned in the Holy Quran are clear signs and eye-openers for us, and those must make us realize that we may be meted out the same treatment if we followed in their footsteps as mentioned by Allah Almighty in **verse 12 of Surah Al-Buruj / Chapter The Big Stars** of the Holy Quran that states, "Verily, the seizure (punishment) of your Lord is severe and painful." Narrated Abu Musa (RA): Allah's messenger (PBUH) said, "Allah gives respite to a ZALIM (Wrongdoer, oppressor) but when He seizes (catches) him, He never



releases him." (Bukhari)

Second aspect of disasters is that Allah Almighty inflicts disasters and trials on believers in order to test whether they remain patient, perseverant and steadfast. That's why Muslims, even during the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), faced disasters like drought. Then, during the reign of four Orthodox Caliphs, Muslims of certain areas faced differed kinds of disasters. For example, in 17 AH during the caliphate of second Caliph Hazrat Umar (RA), after the

great conquest of Yarmook, Muslims faced a severe disaster of plague in Syria that took lives of about twenty-five thousand Muslims including great companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) like Hazrat Abu Ubaida bin Jarrah (RA) and Hazrat Ma'az bin Jabal (RA). In subsequent times too, Muslims of different areas have faced several disasters. Therefore, if Muslims of a specific area face a disaster, it does not mean that Allah Almighty is displeased with them and is pleased with the Muslims of other areas as we are not better than the companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and because of ups and downs present in life of everybody. In this regard, Allah Almighty says in **first four verses of Surah Al-Balad / Chapter The City**, "I swear by this city (Makkah). And you are free in this city. And by the begetter (i.e. Adam) and that which he begot (i.e. his progeny). Verily, We have created man in toil." In the same way, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "Allah forgives the sins of believers on account of grief and afflictions they face even for a thorn that penetrates their bodies." (Masnad-e-Ahmed)." In this regard, Hazrat Isa

(AS) said to his disciples: "The sweetness of this world is the bitterness of the hereafter and the bitterness of this world is the sweetness of the hereafter. Allah's true slaves do not live in luxuries."

Third aspect of disasters is that they must make believers realize their sins so that they could repent on those and seek forgiveness and mercy from Allah Almighty. In this regard, Allah Almighty says in verse 126 of Surah Tauba/Chapter The Repentance, "See they not that they are put in trial once or twice every year (with disasters or calamities), yet they turn not in repentance, nor do they learn a lesson." So disasters can also be construed as warnings from Allah Almighty and must refresh the fear of Allah Almighty in our lives. In 9 AH, when the Holy Prophet (PBUH), as the head of Islamic army, was going towards Syria for the battle of Tabook, he (PBUH) passed by the area where the nation of Samud had faced the wrath of Allah Almighty in shape of severe disaster. At that moment, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) covered his face with cloth, started weeping, increased pace of his camel and told the companions (RA) to pass by such areas while trembling with fear and seeking forgiveness from Allah.

Islam is a religion of nature, so it is incumbent upon us to properly plan for averting disasters and for mitigating their effects as per the available means. The whole of Surah Yousuf is about disaster management wherein the strategy for slashing negative effects of drought has been elaborated. Similarly, Allah Almighty says in verse No.71 of Surah an-Nisa / Chapter The Women, "O you who believe, take all the precautionary measures." In verse No. 195 of Surah Al-Baqarah / Chapter The Cow, Allah Almighty says, "And spend in the cause of Allah and do not throw yourselves into destruction with your own hands and do good. Truly, Allah loves good doers."

In consonance with the divine commandments, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) always took precautionary measures in every sphere of life. Once he (PBUH) went to the house of an ailing companion (RA) to inquire about his health. He (PBUH) asked him if he had consulted a doctor. He answered in affirmative and mentioned the name of the doctor. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) then mentioned the name of another doctor with the advice to consult him also. Similarly, once the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was taking oath of allegiance from people when he (PBUH) came into contact with a person who was suffering from contagious and infectious disease of leprosy. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) did not shake hand with him as a precautionary measure. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) told the Muslims to use all possible worldly means while doing legitimate

tasks/practices and then to put trust in Allah as once he (PBUH) was sitting in a gathering when a companion (RA) reached there from a distant place and informed that he had come on a camel. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said "Where is the camel?" He said that he had left it at the disposal of Allah. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) asked him if he had tied camel's legs. He answered in negative, so the Holy Prophet (PBUH) directed him to tie the legs of camel and then to leave it at the disposal of Allah Almighty. Now the whole world is in the grip of novel coronavirus disease or Covid-19 that has been declared as a pandemic by World Health Organization (WHO) as it has taken a heavy toll in the form of human lives throughout the globe. It is our religious and national duty to do our best to protect ourselves and other people from this lethal infectious, contagious and viral disease by adhering to guidelines prescribed by the government and medical fraternity. At the same time, it is also our religious obligation to seek forgiveness from Allah Almighty and do

Practice Social Distancing.

What does this mean?



Avoid
non-essential
travel.



Avoid places
where large
groups of people



Limit any
gatherings that include
high-risk individuals.

as much good as possible. For that purpose, one of the best ways is to spend in charity and provide financial assistance to the poor in this hour of need as Allah Almighty says in verse No. 92 of Surah Al-e-Imran Chapter The Family of Imran, "By no means shall you attain piety unless you spend of that which you love." Similarly, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "A generous Muslim is a friend of Allah Almighty even if (s)he has committed sins and a miser is the foe of Allah even if (s)he is an ardent worshipper." So, it is incumbent upon us to follow all the safety and precautionary measures to stay safe from this fatal pandemic but, at the same time, it is also our responsibility to not create unnecessary hysteria and panic for ourselves as well as for other people because the fear of suffering is worse than suffering itself. ■

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GREEN ECONOMY

We need 'green economy',
not 'grey' to have green societies

Wajiha Zaman

The world is not in a good shape at the moment — food prices are rising, freshwater sources are depleting, energy prices are soaring, biodiversity is dying out, intense storms are damaging towns and cities, while floods and droughts are threatening the livelihoods of millions. Clearly, climate change is playing a major role in taking its toll on human populations, just as the scientists had predicted it would. And the rate of change is accelerating. In these circumstances, it is imperative for climate change-vulnerable countries like Pakistan to pursue 'Green Economy' that can put them on the path of sustainable development through efficient and environment-friendly use of the natural resources. The global recession has brought new attention to chronic structural flaws in current economic models and assumptions. This global crisis, coupled with climate change, environmental degradation and poverty, triggered worldwide policy debate on the need for a new economic paradigm. A global response, "Rethinking the Economic Recovery: A Global Green New Deal," was first

"Technology is on our side. We have all the tools and knowledge we need to move from the grey economy to the green economy... We have the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. We have the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." —António Guterres; UN Secretary-General (Remarks on Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Islamabad, 16 February 2020)

proposed by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in 2009 to revive the global economy and boost employment; while simultaneously accelerating the fight against climate change, environmental degradation and poverty. As economies worldwide struggle to recover, many are taking a closer look at the broad concept of a "Green Economy," one that simultaneously promotes sustainability and economic growth. What would this type of economy look like, and how could we get there? Let's

find out the answers:

Introduction

Green economy is the new buzzword that is replacing "sustainable development" in the global arena. The concept of green economy was first created in 2008 to get governments to spend money on the environment and it was presented, in 2009, by the UNEP, as a way forward in response to the global financial crisis. The idea behind it was to shift investments away from business as usual to green activities making economic sense.

What is a Green Economy?

A green economy can be thought of as an alternative

vision for growth and development; one that can generate growth and improvements in people's lives in ways consistent with sustainable development. A green economy promotes a triple bottom line: sustaining and advancing economic, environmental and social well-being.

The green economy requires that economic development is decoupled from the use of resources and environmental degradation. Decoupling refers to reducing the environmental impact (in terms of both resource use and the generation of pollution and wastes) associated with any economic activity. A distinction can be made between relative decoupling (a reduction in environmental impact per unit of economic output), and absolute decoupling (a reduction in the overall environmental impact of an economy).

Definitions

"Green Economy is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities."—United Nations Environment Programme, 2011

"Green economy is fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies." — Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2011

"Green economy is a fair and resilient economy, which provides a better quality of life for all, achieved within the ecological limits of one planet." — Green Economy Coalition

Meaning

The green economy, therefore, presents an opportunity to reorient the economy along a development path which is (a) resource-efficient; and (b) generates low levels of carbon emissions. The green economy approach is an effort to focus sustainable development and poverty-reduction efforts on transforming economic activities and economies. Important components of the approach include the use of economic instruments, the creation of an investment-friendly environment, and directing public and private investment towards building natural capital stocks.

Principles

The most common green economy principles identified from a review of eight published sets of principles or characteristics are as under:

1. The green economy is a means for achieving sustainable development.
2. The green economy should create decent work and green jobs.

3. The green economy is resource- and energy-efficient.
4. The green economy respects planetary boundaries, ecological limits or scarcity.
5. The green economy uses integrated decision making.
6. The green economy measures progress beyond GDP using appropriate indicators/metrics.
7. The green economy is equitable, fair and just - between and within countries and between generations.
8. The green economy protects biodiversity and ecosystems.
9. The green economy delivers poverty-reduction, well-being, livelihoods, social protection and access to essential services.
10. The green economy improves governance and the rule of law. It is inclusive; democratic; participatory; accountable; transparent; and stable.
11. The green economy internalises externalities.

Why green economy?

Humanity faces serious challenges in the coming decades: climate change, biodiversity loss, growing inequality, and more. These systemic global crises cannot be

tackled in isolation, because they are all interconnected. Scientists have been calling for a major shift to clean energy technologies and energy efficiency in order to curb carbon emissions causing climate change. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its special report on renewable energy sources and climate change mitigation called for nations around the globe to invest heavily in renewable energy so as to bring down prices and make it more affordable to everyone.

How will it help combat climate change?

Human activities that have released greenhouse gases into the atmosphere are the cause of recent climate change, often referred to as global warming. Climate change is the shift of average weather conditions over long-time horizons (decades and longer). The average temperature on the planet has been increasing in recent decades, resulting in more extreme and unpredictable weather across the world and a range of impacts on economic activity and human well-being. To combat climate change, we need to act now since the benefits of strong, early action on climate change can have significant and lasting benefits that improve the resilience of society. The main human activities responsible for greenhouse gas emissions are the use of non-renewable fossil fuels, land-use change from deforestation and agricultural expansion, and other industrial activities. Many countries are signatories to the Kyoto Protocol (and related mechanisms under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), that commits countries



to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of a range of mitigation measures and defined emission reduction targets. The transition to a green economy, which is resource-efficient and low carbon, will therefore be essential in reducing GHG emissions and mitigating climate change by decoupling future growth from the use of non-renewable fossil fuels and other natural resources.

Challenges to a transition

The principal challenge is how we move towards an economic system that will benefit more people over the long run. Transitioning to a green economy will require a fundamental shift in thinking about growth and development, production of goods and services, and consumer habits. This transition will not happen solely because of better information on impacts, risks or good economic analysis; ultimately, it is about politics and changing the political economy of how big decisions are made.

The problem is vested interests. Those who benefit from the status quo are either overrepresented in, or have greater access to, institutions that manage natural resources and protect the environment. US climate legislation, for example, was defeated in no small part by resistance from fossil-fuel-based energy advocates. The following steps would help create a more level policy-making playing field:

- i. Increase public awareness and the case for change. Greater visibility on the need for this transition can motivate voters and consumers - not just because of the costs but also the economic benefits generated by a Green Economy, such as new jobs and new markets. People will not adopt policies because they are green. They will do so when they believe it is in their interest.

- ii. Promote new indicators that complement GDP. Planning agencies and finance ministries should adopt a more diverse and representative set of economic indicators that focus less exclusively on growth and track the pace and progress of development.
- iii. Open up government decision-making processes to the public and civil society. This would help ensure policies are accountable to the public and not to vested and well-connected interests.
- iv. Identify and take advantage of political leadership when available as this will be crucial in order to limit the undue influence of "dirty" economic holdouts.

Green Economy in Pakistan

There is no doubt that environmental degradation remains a serious, but politically unrecognized, challenge for Pakistan. Issues such as widespread air and water pollution which plague the country are costing its already stressed economy almost 6% of its GDP and draining away more than Rs 1 billion per day (WB report). Pakistan's high vulnerability to climate change is now threatening to further add on to these costs. A German think-tank "Germanwatch" has placed Pakistan on the fifth spot on the list of countries most vulnerable to climate change in its Global Climate Risk Index for 2020. According to the report, Pakistan lost 9,989 lives, suffered economic losses worth \$3.8 billion and witnessed 152 extreme weather events from 1999 to 2018 and based on this data, the think-tank has concluded that Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change is increasing.

Green Economy and UN Climate Summit 2019

Although the global demand for green transition is growing, it is no longer seen as the responsibility of just

THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND REPLENISHMENT

European countries must at least double their previous contributions to the GCF.

The costs of tackling the climate crisis are increasing for the world's poorest - and so must our solidarity with them.

DOUBLED PREVIOUS PLEDGES



PLEDGED BELOW THEIR FAIR SHARE



STILL TO MAKE A NEW PLEDGE



the government, it is the responsibility of every public institution, company and citizen to do what they can in their domain. It was the pledge of more than 70 nations at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York on Sept 23 to make concrete plans now for how to reach the goal of climate neutrality by 2050. In Pakistan, however, there are still voices arguing against green transition. They say that Pakistan is responsible for only 1pc of carbon emissions, so it does not matter much anyway.

Climate aside, the strongest arguments for Pakistan are economic and with regard to resource survival. They are compelling.

Firstly, green transition in the energy sector would mean much lower electricity prices as well as a much smaller burden on Pakistan's troubled trade balance. The energy sector in Pakistan primarily runs on fossil fuels—oil, gas and coal. Consequently, electricity is very expensive here, and this is making the country less competitive economically. The heavy dependence on imported oil and gas is also undermining Pakistan's trade balance and is a major component of the current economic crisis.

Solar and wind turbines can produce electricity at half the price of oil and coal or better. With the help of pioneering wind turbine giant Vestas and others, Denmark has the world's highest amount of electricity from renewables approaching 70pc in 2020, but, at the same time, has the lowest load-shedding and one of the lowest production cost levels in the world.

The message is clear: the more renewable sources for producing electricity, the better for the trade balance and for lower energy prices. And it would make Pakistani businesses much more price-competitive in the global markets.

Secondly, global consumers are turning to sustainable production, and soon this will also be reflected in tax incentives and regulations in Pakistan's two biggest export markets: the EU and the US. Already, as many as two-thirds of consumers have a strong preference for sustainable products, and this trend is expected to strengthen over the coming years. Big enterprises like Carlsberg and Starbucks are taking out plastic from their line of products to meet those expectations.

Moreover, it is only a matter of time before an intensifying race to meet climate goals will impose sustainability standards on products being exported to, for instance, Europe. A little further down the line, Pakistan's main export markets will also put in place far stricter regulations for products.

The message is clear: those who can produce sustainably will be the winners on the economic markets.

Thirdly, building a circular economy is crucial for Pakistan to preserve its resources. Pakistan is one of 10 countries in the world that will be most affected by climate change. Pakistan has numerous environmental and resource challenges that will have to be resolved quickly, if, for instance, water resources and the ability to grow agricultural crops are to be available also for future generations.

In Pakistan, 95% (World Bank) of water is used in

Did You know?

A green economy is defined as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. In a green economy, growth in employment and income are driven by public and private investment into such economic activities, infrastructure and assets that allow reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy and resource efficiency, and prevention of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

agriculture. The lack of waste management is slowly but literally turning Pakistan into a wasteland. Air quality ranks among the poorest in the world and that has an impact on health standards.

The message is clear: sustainable handling of waste, protection of aquifers from pollution and saving on water resources are indispensable to Pakistan.

Solutions exist. Waste-to-energy and recycling solutions could make it possible to put a value on waste and thereby finance solutions. In Denmark, most waste is recycled,

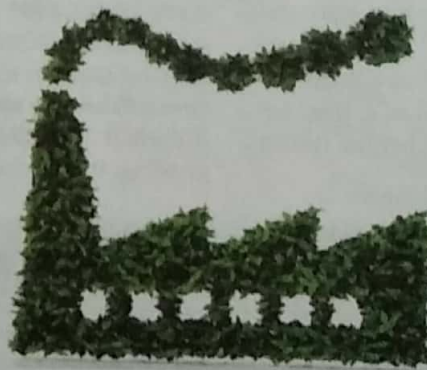
some is turned into energy and only one percent goes into a landfill. The newest state-of-the-art waste-to-energy plant in Copenhagen can convert 500,000 tons of residual waste to energy every year practically without the emission of toxic fumes. The investment is expected to fully pay for itself through the sale of energy.

In October, Copenhagen hosted the C40 World Mayors Summit — with coordination among the largest cities

around the world, including Karachi. Cities are responsible for 70% of global carbon emissions and 80% of energy use, and that is why green and smart solutions for cities are crucial for overall global green transition. Innovative solutions are being developed and shared here — and Pakistan can benefit directly.

For Pakistan, climate neutrality is not just something 'nice to do'. It is a 'need to do' for survival. And on top of that, it just makes good economic sense.

The green entrepreneurs of today, whether countries or business companies, will be the global winners of tomorrow. ■



Peace Deal between Taliban and USA

Implications, Predicaments and the Way Forward

Mairaj ul Hamid Nasri



The theoretical framework of the deal is now set, but its implementation on the ground and manifestation in the Arg (Afghan Presidential Palace in Kabul) are yet to be seen. The United States has done a tremendous, yet a tricky, job by accepting Taliban as a legitimate political force in Afghanistan. It is now out of the negotiations, which, according to the deal, will be Intra-Afghan while the US will only be an observer. The United States will withdraw completely in phases in 14 months provided that Taliban stick to their promises made in the deal.

The way Afghan peace process has reached its culmination is unique, intriguing, thrilling and ideal in some ways. All major global and regional actors were involved, in one way or the other, in this process. It is indeed a unique event that a sovereign state was involved in bringing a non-state actor to the table through every possible measure. All the stakeholders were keen to end this saga now. Both sides were exhausted after fighting the fruitless war for almost 19 years, yet none of them was ready to disarm itself. The global and regional actors were involved and each of them was trying to secure its respective interests on the Afghan land. Countries like Russia, Iran and China, which were erstwhile the enemies of the Taliban, were seen supporting them to thwart the rise of ISIS in Afghanistan and to secure a clear position in Afghanistan after US withdrawal. All of them have facilitated the peace process in their own capacity. The intriguing part is interesting, too, in a sense that the globally-declared terrorist outfit and its banned members were recognized, slowly and gradually, as a legitimate power—it has posed several questions to the future researchers to study. The thrilling part of the process is cancellation, and resumption, of the talks on crucial stages that has made the process more attractive and important. The appointment of

At last, the world has seen the much-awaited moment on February 29, 2020, when a peace deal between the United States of America and the Taliban was inked in Doha, Qatar. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, and Taliban's deputy leader and chief negotiator, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, signed the deal from their respective sides. Representatives of global and regional players, as well as a number of Taliban leaders were present on this occasion. Signing of the deal, indeed, is an achievement, but its implementation remains a herculean task.

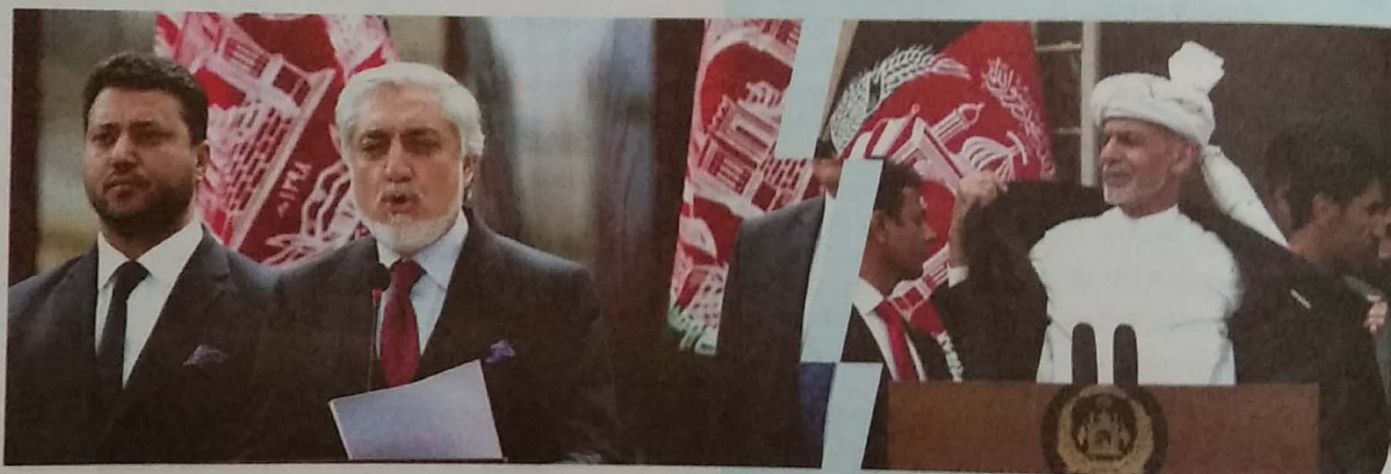


an Afghan-American for the said purpose added to the saga as an Afghan was supposed to represent USA to hold talks with the people of his own country of birth; probably because he knew the inside politics along with strengths and lacunae in the Taliban outfit. This strategy worked very well.

The process may be termed as an ideal in few ways because of the soft approach adopted by a sovereign state against an effective non-state actor for ending a war that spanned nearly two decades. The process has contributed in many ways to the development and implementation of new tactics, strategies, compromises, adaptation of confidence-building measures (CBMs), tit for tat and carrot-and-stick policies from both sides which can be followed and applied in the future by researchers, academicians and policymakers at individual and state levels.

Apart from adaptation of these approaches in achieving the deal, the real challenge is its implementation inside a

In this scenario, implementation of the Doha Accord and power sharing with the Taliban is a very challenging job. Ashraf Ghani was the first person who resisted the deal at first by denying release of Taliban prisoners. The proponents of status quo and those working in the Kabul administration will definitely resist or try to apply delaying tactics against materialization of Intra-Afghan dialogue. In the first stage, a team of negotiators was supposed to be constituted by the Afghan government that would talk to the Taliban. But, its formation was delayed due to deadlock between Dr Ghani and Dr Abdullah. The civil society and the media working in Kabul have their stakes in the current regime and are likely to resist the Taliban in resuming Kabul's power corridors. States like India will try their best to instigate the forces working against the intra-Afghan dialogue. Some analysts suggest that Dr Abdullah's announcement of a parallel government is backed by India as it wants to counter its rival's (Pakistan's) role in finalization of the



state where the state is not run by a single government. The incumbent Afghan president Dr Ashraf Ghani has won the recent elections but the runner-up candidate, Dr Abdullah Abdulahlah, also took oath as the president and announced a parallel government the same day Ashraf Ghani took oath of office. Prior to this, Zalmay Khalilzad's struggle of convincing Dr Abdullah had failed. Another important player in Afghan politics is Abdul Rashid Dostum who has worked with President Ghani in the previous National Unity Government as Vice President. However, he is, at present, not in a position to take side with Ashraf Ghani and has not even accepted Khalilzad's offer for sharing of power with Dr Ghani. The ethnic division in Afghanistan is at its peak now. Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan's (HIA) head Engr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has also lost the elections but will certainly be concerned with the power distribution in Kabul. Other ethnic leaders, i.e. Muhammad Muhaqqiq, Atta Muhammad Noor, Abdurrah Rasul Sayyaf and many other politicians and warlords will also be waiting for their share in power.

peace deal.

Regional players, who have played a constructive role in making this deal a reality, will go all-out to get the deal implemented, and to restore Taliban's political power. While concluding the whole debate, one may conclude that amidst the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, the country may see another civil war, if the deal is not implemented in its true letter and spirit. Some Afghans have blamed the regional states for destabilizing Afghanistan time and again, but time proved that the regional players, especially Pakistan, facilitated the process and made it successful. The ball is now in Afghans' own court. They have to set with themselves and have to decide by their own for their future political system. Lets' hope for the best and see the upcoming ups and downs in the new phase of Afghan Peace Process, i.e. the Intra-Afghan dialogue. ■

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10

MAJOR EVENTS IN EUROPEAN HISTORY

The European history has gone through many stages of ups and downs to reach the current status. This region has long been a seed of political, cultural and economic influence. The power of its countries has stretched far beyond the continent, touching every corner of the Earth. Europe is known not only for its revolutions and wars but also for its socio-cultural changes, including the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, and colonialism. The effects of these changes can still be seen in the world today.

G K Guru

1. The Great Plague

It was the final major epidemic of the bubonic plague to take place in the Kingdom of England. It took place within



the centuries-long time period of the Second Pandemic, a long period of irregular bubonic plague epidemics which started in Europe in 1347, the first year of the "Black Death," an eruption which was consisted of other forms like pneumonic plague, and continued until 1750.

2. The Renaissance

The Renaissance was a cultural and socio-political movement of the 15th and 16th centuries that emphasized on the rediscovery and application of texts and beliefs from classical antiquity, happening in Europe. This movement actually began over the course of a few centuries, occurring as the class and political structures of medieval Europe began to break down. The Renaissance got its start in Italy but soon encompassed all of Europe.



This was the time of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael. It saw revolutions in thinking, science, and art, as well as world exploration. The Renaissance was a cultural rebirth that touched all of Europe. It also brought along a lot of change on the periphery of Europe. Islands such as Malta experienced great upheaval as wars such as the ones between Muslims and Christians in the Great Siege of Malta defined whether the rest of Europe would remain under the influence of the existing rulers, or whether it would be the beginning of the domination of the Turks.

3. Colonialism and Imperialism

Europeans have conquered, settled, and ruled a huge proportion of the Earth's land mass. The effects of these overseas empires are still felt today. Historians generally agree that Europe's colonial expansion happened in several phases. The 15th century saw the first settlements in the Americas and this extended into the 19th century. At the same time, the English, Dutch, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and other European countries explored and



colonized Africa, India, Asia and the continent that would become Australia. These empires were more than governing bodies over foreign lands. The impact also spread to religion and culture, leaving a touch of European influence throughout the world.

4. The Reformation

The Reformation, or the Protestant Reformation, was the 16th-century religious, political, intellectual and cultural upheaval that splintered Catholic Europe, setting in place the structures and beliefs that would define the continent in the modern era. It introduced Protestantism to the world and created a major division which lasts to this day. Historians usually date the start of the Protestant Reformation to the 1517 publication of Martin Luther's



"95 Theses." Its ending can be placed anywhere from the 1555 Peace of Augsburg, which allowed for the coexistence of Catholicism and Lutheranism in Germany, to the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia, which ended the Thirty Years' War. The key ideas of the Reformation—a call to purify the church and a belief that the Bible, not tradition, should be the sole source of spiritual authority—were not themselves novel. However, Luther and the other reformers became the first to skilfully use the power of the printing press to give their ideas a wide audience. The Protestant Reformation was both a spiritual and political revolution that led to a number of reform churches. It helped shape modern government and religious

institutions and how those two interact.

5. The Enlightenment

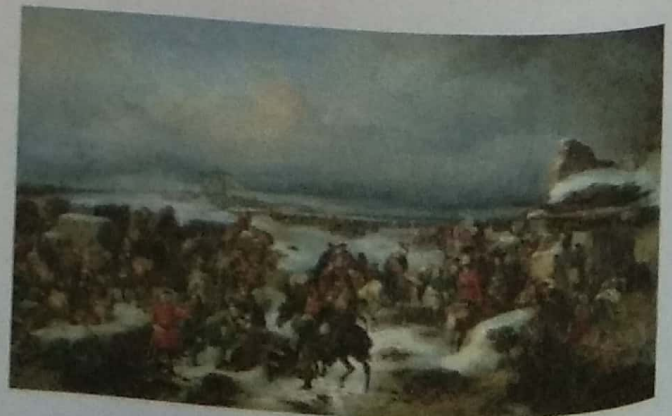
The Enlightenment has been defined in a number of manners, but, at its widest, it was a philosophical and intellectual and cultural movement of the 17th and 18th centuries. The major thinkers of the Enlightenment stressed the value of reason over blind faith and superstition. It pointed to reason, logic, criticism and



freedom of thought over doctrine and superstition. This movement was spearheaded over the years by a group of educated writers and thinkers. Logic was now emerging in a worldview which stated that empirical observation and the examination of life could disclose the truth behind human society, as well as the universe. The philosophies of men like Hobbes, Locke and Voltaire led to new ways of thinking about society, government and education that would forever change the world. Likewise, the work of Newton reshaped "natural philosophy." Many of these men were persecuted for their new ways of thinking. Their influence, though, is undeniable.

6. The Seven Years' War

The Seven Years' War happened between 1754 and 1763 with the key conflict being in the seven-year period 1756-1763. Most of the great powers were participants and the war influenced Europe, North America, Central America, India and the Philippines. In the historiography of certain countries, the war is named after fighters in the respective theatres: the French and Indian War as it is



in the United States.

The French Revolution

Between 1789 and 1802, France was hit by a revolution which thoroughly changed the government, military and culture of the state as well as got Europe involved into wars. The Revolution, which began in 1789, affected every aspect of France and much of Europe. Quite often, it is called the start of the modern era. It began with a



financial crisis and a monarchy that had overtaxed and overburdened its people. The initial revolt was just the beginning of the chaos that would sweep France and challenge every tradition and custom of the government. In the end, the French Revolution was not without its consequences. Chief among them was the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. He would throw all of Europe into war and, in the process, redefine the continent forever.

1. The Industrial Revolution

The second half of the 18th century saw scientific and technological changes that would radically change the world. The first "industrial revolution" began around the 1760s and ended sometime in the 1840s. During this time, mechanization and factories altered the nature of



economics and society. In addition, urbanization and industrialization reshaped both the physical and mental

landscape. This was the age when coal and iron took over industries and began to modernize production systems. It also witnessed the introduction of steam power that revolutionized transportation. This led to a great population shift and growth as the world had never seen.

9. The Russian Revolutions

In 1917, two revolutions convulsed Russia. The first led to civil war and the overthrow of the Tsars. This was near the end of World War I and ended in the second revolution and the creation of a communist government. By October of that year, Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks had taken



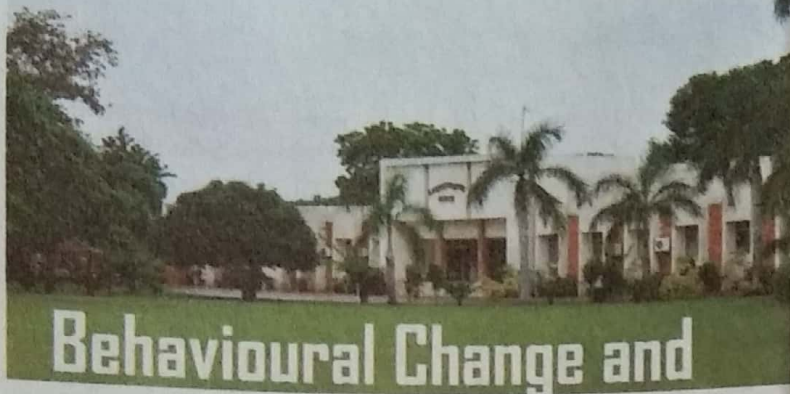
over the country. This introduction of Communism in such a great world power helped transform world politics.

10. Interwar Germany

Imperial Germany collapsed at the end of World War I. After this, Germany experienced a tumultuous time which climaxed with the rise of Nazism and World War II. The Weimar Republic held control of the German Republic after the first war. It was through this unique government



structure—which lasted only 15 years—that the Nazi Party rose. Led by Adolf Hitler, Germany would be faced with its biggest challenges; politically, socially, and morally. The devastation caused by Hitler and his counterparts in World War II would permanently scar Europe and the entire world. ■



Behavioural Change and Civil Service



Here it would be equally important to make distinction between civil service and bureaucracy. Bureaucracy is a form of organization/hierarchy,

whereas civil service, on the contrary, is a name given to the body of government servants. Similarly, bureaucracy is a theoretical construct while civil service is a functioning reality. Bureaucracy being a kind of organization/hierarchy can be adopted by any organization or agency whereas civil service is meant only for government servants.

In Pakistan, there is an established system of selection and in-service training of new entrants in civil service. Those who qualify written test and interview of examination for Central Superior Services (CSS) are offered a position in BS 17, in twelve occupational groups, as per their merit and quota. Next comes the process of pre-service training imparted to them at Civil Services Academy (CSA), Lahore. The training period spans 35-40 weeks comprising different components meant to impart skills, knowledge and socioeconomic dynamics of society, besides inculcating in them etiquettes, compassion and attitudinal change. It is expected that on conclusion all trainee officers would demonstrate at least a minimum acceptable standard besides qualifying examination conducted at the end of training.

As for the question of the performance of officers in the field, the answer, unfortunately, is not encouraging so far. They lack commitment and dedication, and barring a few, they do not take their assignments as a challenge. There are a number of reasons behind this state of affairs, and the most fundamental one is the dearth of professional trainers not only during pre-service

Civil service is considered the backbone of a country's whole administrative setup, and all affairs of the government are managed, run and supported by experienced and knowledgeable persons who have been trained right from the induction into civil service. They are called civil servants. After independence from the yoke of foreign rule, Pakistan inherited a system of civil service, i.e. Indian Civil Service, which was created to rule and control the people of the Indian Subcontinent through coercion and force. It was not in any way to serve the people, and the civil servants of that era were the puppets in the hands of colonial rulers. The same attitude was also inherited to civil servants (Civil Service of Pakistan) after independence, and our rulers continued to use them on the same pattern to rule the people and victimize their opponents whether for personal reasons or for political gains. Over the years, civil service in Pakistan has undergone drastic changes as far as its methodology in maintaining power and influence is concerned.

training but also in post-induction training. That is why we see lack of discipline and attitudinal problems on the part of even senior officers while coming across the people. Currently, services of no professional experts are available to design, formulate and devise implementation strategy aimed to get a solid output which is again measureable in terms of its results and far-reaching effects. The officers are constantly burdened with plethora of information to which they soon develop the feelings of monotony.

There is no doubt that these new entrants to civil service come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. Since the majority belongs to upper middle class, therefore they are more aware of the dynamics of society and how people look at civil servants. It is generally perceived that civil servants are corrupt, arrogant, inefficient and inaccessible. On the other hand, these new entrants start thinking that the society has bestowed upon them this status. These perceptions, in return, play an important role in formation and influencing the conduct and behaviour of the officers in their professional career.

No major changes so far have been under consideration as part of civil service reforms. Still, serving the training institution is not included in the preference or priority list of officers. To make training valued, its purposes and philosophy are required to be redefined. Therefore, a partnership among professionals, bureaucrats and academia is a must to bring a turnaround while undertaking any reform agenda that includes behavioural change and strengthening of training institutions. ■

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India's Chief of Defence Staff

On his country's independence day last year, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of India's Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) post. A committee under the National Security Adviser, Ajit Doval, was formed to finalise the modalities and responsibilities of the post. Consequently, India's former army chief, General Bipin Rawat, assumed this office on December 31, 2019.

The Chief of Defence Staff is a four-star general, the principal military advisor to the defence minister and functions as a Secretary to Government. He will head the new Department of Military Affairs to ensure jointness in training, logistics and procurement of the three services.

Although Service Chiefs in India have tenure of three years or 62 years of age whichever is earlier, the upper age limit for the CDS has been fixed at 65 years of age but his tenure has not been fixed. The CDS will administer all tri-services organisations, comprising personnel from the army, air force and navy, but their command will be with the chief of the service which has a predominant role in their functioning. However, he will head the newly-created agencies for cyber and space.

The tri-service agency of Special Forces could also come under him, but their deployment will be dependent on ground commanders. The headquarters of the Indian Integrated Defence Staff, comprising representatives from the three services, will come under him. The Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff, also known as the CISC, who heads this tri-services organisation, will also come under the CDS and be renamed as the Deputy CDS. The CDS will also head

all tri-services institutions such as the National Defence Academy in Pune, College of Defence Management in Secunderabad and the National Defence College in Delhi. He will also be the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and will be supported by the IDS staff in this second role as well. The CDS, however, will not have any operational role and military command. But, will ensure coordination in joint operations. He will also not be eligible to hold any government office after demitting as the CDS. His salary will be equal to that of a service chief.



Minimalist Machine Learning

Mathematicians at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab), US, have developed a new approach to machine learning aimed at experimental imaging data. Rather than relying on the tens or hundreds of thousands of images used by typical machine learning methods, this new approach "learns" much more quickly and requires far fewer images. The technique is formally called the "Mixed-Scale Dense Convolution Neural Network (MS-D)". It requires far fewer parameters than traditional methods, converges quickly, and has the ability to "learn" from a remarkably small training set. Their approach is already being used to extract biological structure from cell images, and is poised to provide a major new computational tool to analyse data across a wide range of research areas.



M. Usman Butt

Pegasus Spyware

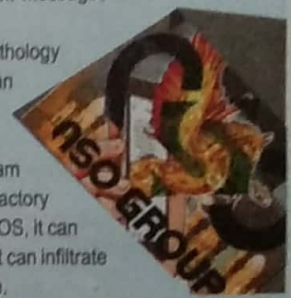
On 29 October 2019, WhatsApp—a subsidiary of Facebook—filed a lawsuit against Israel-based cyber-arms firm, the NSO Group, for infecting 'specific' group of WhatsApp users worldwide, mainly belonging to civil societies, through their spyware program named Pegasus (also known as Trident). Pegasus is a spyware that when installed on a phone, hooovers all communications (iMessage, WhatsApp, Gmail, Viber, Facebook, Skype) and locations. It can be installed on a target's phone through a few different means: exploiting vulnerabilities such as the WhatsApp one, sending infected links to targets (spear phishing), social engineering. The spyware requires the target to click on an exploit link which then allows the operator to penetrate security features on the phone and installs Pegasus without the user's knowledge. The operator can then control the phone and gain access to private information like passwords, contact lists, calendar events and text messages from popular mobile messaging apps.

The phenomenon of 'Pegasus' origin is from the Greek mythology where an immortal, winged horse with an ability to fly, had an arsenal of supernatural powers—a free passage from the mortal to the immortal realm. Equipped with powerful coding, the NSO group's Pegasus program can survive OS (Operating System) reboot, factory resets, and OS upgrades. Other than Android and iOS, it can breach into the Symbian and Blackberry OS devices. It can infiltrate the smartphones, irrespective of the OS, in incognito mode.

Pegasus was used for surveillance on human rights activists, and journalists, and in early 2019 it was used for State-on-State espionage in Pakistan and reports suggest that at least two dozen of Pakistan's senior defence and intelligence officials were targeted.

Pegasus was discovered thanks to Ahmed Mansoor, a UAE human rights activist, who happened to be one of its targets. It was a spear-phishing attack: He received several SMS messages that contained what he thought were malicious links, so he sent those messages to security experts from Citizen Lab, and they brought another cybersecurity firm, Lookout, to the investigation.

Founded in 2009, the NSO Group (NSO is an abbreviation of the names of firm's founders—Niv Carmi, Shalev Hulio, and Omri Lavie) is an Israel-based company renowned for its Pegasus spyware to undertake remote surveillance of the smartphones.



What is crime mapping?

Crime mapping is a web- and android-based application in which the location of a criminal incident, along with the First Information Report (FIR) number, pictures and other details is uploaded and updated. In the system, the investigation officer visits the crime spot and enters the location in the app on his android phone to geo-tag the crime scene. The uploaded data is displayed on a dashboard to facilitate in identifying areas with higher rates of crime. Mapping crime, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), allows crime analysts to identify crime hot spots, along with other trends and patterns. The technique is used to devise a crime-fighting strategy, especially patrolling plan.

Crime mapping as a policing tactic was first used by Lahore Police in 2013. It was started as a pilot project with the help of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). For the purpose, Lahore Police bought a few android phones while the software was developed with the help of the university. Initially, it was started at a few police stations. Later on, sensing its utility, it was replicated in all police stations of the provincial capital with the help of Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB). Currently, it has been replicated throughout the province.



Huawei

It is the world's largest seller of telecommunications equipment, such as new 5G network infrastructure, and the second-largest smartphone maker. Based in Shenzhen, China, Huawei sells its products domestically and internationally. In the United States, it sells few phones but helps in some rural areas. company's billionaire Huawei in 1987. With employees, website, Huawei company fully owned by its employees. The United States and some other countries assert that the company threatens their national security, saying it has violated international sanctions and stolen intellectual property, and that it could commit cyber espionage.



Zombie Cells

Much like the 'undead' in apocalyptic movies, zombie cells are the ones that cannot die but are equally unable to perform the functions of a normal cell. Formally known as senescent cells, they have been implicated in a number of age-related diseases. In a mouse model of brain disease, scientists at Mayo Clinic, USA report that senescent cells accumulate in certain brain cells prior to cognitive loss. Preventing the accumulation helps to



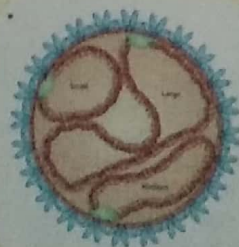
diminish protein aggregation, neuronal death and memory loss. Recently, scientists probed the mysteries of zombie cells using a model that imitates aspects of Alzheimer's disease. When senescent cells were removed, the scientists found that the diseased animals retained the ability to form memories, eliminated signs of inflammation, did not develop what are called neurofibrillary tangles, and had maintained normal brain mass.

What was the Hundred Years' War?

The term refers to a succession of wars between England and France.

The fighting began in 1337 and did not end until 1453. However, the period was not one of constant warfare: truces and treaties brought about breaks in the military action between the countries. The reasons for the conflicts were many: England was trying to hang onto its provinces on the European continent; the French threw their support behind the Scots, who had their own battles with the English; the French wished to control the commercial center of Flanders (present-day Belgium), where the English had set up a profitable wool trade; and finally, the two countries disagreed about who should control the English Channel, the body of water that lies between them. To further complicate matters, marriages between the English and French aristocracy meant that heirs to either throne could find themselves with a foreign relative, allowing them to lay claim to authority over the other country as well. When the first war broke out in 1337, King Edward III (1312–1377) of England claimed the French throne on the basis of the fact that his mother, Isabella, was the daughter of France's King Philip IV (called Philip the Fair, 1268–1314) and the sister of three French kings. Over the course of the next century, even though England won most of the battles and for a brief time controlled France (1420–22), it was the French who ultimately won the war in 1453. England lost all its territory on the continent, except Calais, which was also later taken by the French (in 1558).

First identified in 1993, hantaviruses cause severe, and sometimes fatal, respiratory infections and are known to infect lung cells. Though relatively rare, infections caused by them are expected to increase in the coming decades as temperatures across the globe rise due to climate change. The danger is that we are totally unprepared for this possibility. Hantavirus is transmitted to humans who inhale the virus from the urine, faeces, or saliva of infected rodents. Infection with hantavirus can progress to Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS). Early HPS symptoms include fatigue, fever and muscle aches, followed after a week or so by coughing and shortness of breath. HPS has a mortality rate of around 40%, according to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention. No treatments or vaccines are available. A study on hantaviruses has been published in Nature magazine, and its findings could point to a strategy to fight HPS.



Hantaviruses

What are coronaviruses?

They are a family of viruses common in animals, including bats, camels and cows, and can sometimes be transmitted to humans. They are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, which scientists believe the virus uses to enter cells and delay the immune system's response. Coronaviruses can lead to fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and in more severe cases, kidney failure, acute respiratory illnesses such as pneumonia, and even death.

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the UN agency charged with spearheading international public health efforts. Created in 1948 as part of the United Nations, the WHO has a broad mandate to guide and coordinate international health policy. Its primary activities include developing partnerships with other global health initiatives, conducting research, setting norms, providing technical support, and monitoring health trends around the world. Over the decades, the WHO's remit has expanded from its original focus on women's and children's health, nutrition, sanitation, and fighting malaria and tuberculosis. The WHO is now seeking to improve its ability to fight the next epidemic and boost the health of the millions of people still living in extreme poverty. In its 2019 strategy, the WHO identified 3 priorities for its work over the next years:

1. providing health coverage to one billion more people;
2. protecting one billion more people from health emergencies such as epidemics; and
3. ensuring another one billion people enjoy better health and well-being, including protection from non-infectious diseases such as cancer.

Monster Galaxies

They are thought to be the ancestors of the huge elliptical galaxies in today's universe and pave the way to understanding the formation and evolution of such galaxies. A unique characteristic of monster galaxies (or starburst galaxies as they are also called) is that they form stars at a startling pace—1,000 times higher than the star formation in our galaxy. On investigating one called COSMOS-AzTEC-1, an international team of astronomers has recently found that clouds throughout the galaxy are very unstable, which is unusual. The gas in COSMOS-AzTEC-1 will be completely consumed in 100 million years, which is 10 times faster than in other star forming galaxies. The findings have been published in Nature.



Smart Cities

Smart cities are those that are economically prosperous, where growth and development is not at the expense of the environment and, most importantly, where the dividends of growth are shared equitably among all sectors of society. There are three Es of sustainability—economy, environment and equity. Such cities are not, therefore, merely technology-driven spaces but also spaces that are inclusive, where communities bond. Sometimes, such dynamics are used to define a city as a resilient city. A smart city has certain characteristics. It is not a sprawling city; compact cities promoting vertical growth have been found to be more energy-efficient and environment-friendly. A smart city is one where every effort is made to discourage private vehicles, which are mostly dependent on fossil fuels and also contribute to urban sprawl. Instead, public mass transit systems, bicycles and walking are preferred, assisting in having compact cities and adding a new dimension to land use development through what is known as transit-oriented development. In this, self-sustaining urban localities are designed around public transit stations, facilitating environment-friendly modes of transportation and with public spaces designed to promote interaction between people from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

All About Clouds

Heat from the sun causes tiny drops of water to move from the ground up into the air. When water molecules warm up, they change from a liquid into a gas and rise up into the air, or evaporate. Clouds are formed when water vapour rises high up into the air. When it reaches cold air, the vapour turns back into droplets of water. Those tiny drops of water floating in the air collect and 'stick' together up in the sky. Clouds are just lots of drops of water all stuck together. When clouds get so full of water droplets that they can't hold any more, the water falls back to the ground as rain. Sometimes the water droplets freeze and fall to the ground as snow, sleet, or hail. Water or ice that comes from clouds is called precipitation. Besides bringing precipitation, clouds also keep the earth cool. Warm air always rises and cool air sinks. On nights when there are lots of thick clouds, the earth does not lose its heat as fast because the clouds block the warm air from rising up as much. Cloudy nights are usually warmer than clear nights. On nights when there aren't many clouds, the heat rises up into the atmosphere, cooling the temperature of the earth.

Types of clouds: There are three main types of clouds, but there can also be combinations of these clouds, and other names for them depending on how high they are in the sky. Following are three main types of clouds:

Cirrus: thin and wispy clouds very high in the sky. They are often made of tiny pieces of ice and usually occur the day before rain or snow. The word cirrus comes from a Latin word that means 'tuft or curl of hair'.
Cumulus: large, fluffy clouds that are in the sky on days with nice weather (no precipitation). The word cumulus means 'pile' or 'heap'. Cumulus clouds can turn into clouds that bring thunderstorms, called Cumulonimbus clouds.

Stratus: dark layers of clouds that hang low across the sky like a blanket. The word stratus means 'to spread out.' Stratus clouds can bring rain, snow, or fog.

How does the WTO adjudicate cases?

dispute settlement mechanism, which is run by a rotating staff of judges, as well as a permanent staff of lawyers and administrators. The WTO appoints a panel to hear a case if the opposing parties are unable to resolve the issue through negotiations. A panel's rulings, if not overturned on appeal, are binding on the respondent country. If found guilty, it has the choice to cease the offending practice or provide compensation. If the country fails to respond, the plaintiff country can take tit-for-tat measures to offset any harm caused, such as by blocking imports or raising tariffs. Member states have filed nearly six hundred disputes since the

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION



WTO's creation in 1995, but many of these cases have been settled prior to litigation. However, the WTO process ground to a halt in December 2019, over a dispute about the appointment of new judges to the Appellate Body, which hears appeals to dispute settlement decisions. The United States, frustrated by Appellate Body decisions that it viewed as exceeding its mandate, has repeatedly vetoed all proposed new judges. The conflict began under the Barack Obama administration and intensified under Trump, and has now left the body without enough judges to hear appeals, which indefinitely delays any decision made by lower panels.

Hubris Syndrome

A condition where the behaviour of politicians, business leaders, and other people in power, changes for the worse as they come to enjoy increasing power and influence. The syndrome causes certain changes to the brains of these leaders which in turn makes them suffer from a number of undesirable qualities; including losing touch with reality, taking excessive pride in their actions, displaying lesser empathy towards other people, and taking arrogant decisions or actions without sufficient thought. The term was coined by former British Foreign Secretary David Owen, who has studied behavioural changes in various world leaders, in his 2007 book by the same name.

The Arab League

Founded in March 1945, the League of Arab States (or Arab League) is a loose confederation of twenty-two Arab nations whose broad mission is to improve coordination among its members on matters of common interest. The league was chartered in response to concerns about postwar colonial divisions of territory as well as strong opposition to the emergence of a Jewish state on Palestinian territory, but it has long been criticized for disunity and poor governance. According to its Charter, the founding members of the Arab League—Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Transjordan, and Yemen—agreed to seek "close cooperation" on matters of economics, communication, culture, nationality, social welfare, and health. They renounced violence as a means to settle conflicts between members and empowered league offices to mediate in such disputes, as well as in conflicts involving nonmembers. Signatories agreed to collaborate in military affairs; this accord was strengthened with a 1950 pact committing members to treat acts of aggression against any member state as an act against all.

The term "Fourth Estate"—first popularized as a way to describe the press as a non-governmental actor in society—has in recent decades been appropriated as shorthand for the Defense Department's agencies and activities that are not part of the military branches: the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The distinction between these "DOD Components" and the "military components" is laid out in DoD Instruction 7730.64. As a 2018 GAO report put it, the "DOD has defined Fourth Estate organizations as DOD organizations, other than the military services, that have DOD manpower resources." These organizations include the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, DOD field activities, and the combatant commands. The list also includes more than two dozen defense agencies, including the: Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Defense Contract Management Agency, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Missile Defense Agency, and more. In 2018, Fourth Estate field activities alone included more than 380,000 employees, according to the GAO's count. In 2019, Defense Secretary Mark Esper directed Pentagon officials to scrutinize Fourth Estate spending in an effort to put money toward technology development and other priorities. In January 2020, he announced that he had found \$5.7 billion to shift.

What is the Pentagon's Fourth Estate?

World Heritage Site

A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area which is selected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance, and is legally protected by international treaties. The sites are judged important to the collective interests of humanity. To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance (such as an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area). It may signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet. The sites are intended for practical conservation for posterity, which otherwise would be subject to risk from human or animal trespassing, unmonitored/uncontrolled/unrestricted access, or threat from local administrative negligence. Sites are demarcated by UNESCO as protected zones. The list is maintained by the International World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, composed of 21 'State parties' that are elected by their General Assembly. The programme catalogues, names and conserves sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common culture and heritage of humanity. Under certain conditions, listed sites can obtain funds from the World Heritage Fund. The programme began with the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 16 November 1972. Since then, 193 State parties have ratified the convention, making it one of the most widely recognised international agreements and the world's most popular cultural programme.

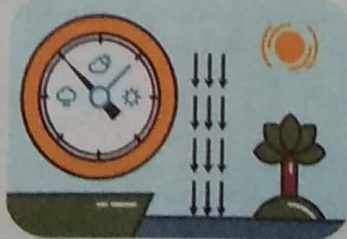
Air Pressure and How It Affects Weather

The weather we experience each day depends a lot on the pressure and temperature of the air around us as well as many factors in Earth's atmosphere. The atmosphere surrounds Earth, going up for more than 300 miles until it blends in with space. It contains water vapour (moisture in the form of a gas, like steam), which can form clouds.

As air heats up, its molecules expand and spread out, making the air less dense than it was before. It floats up through the denser, cooler air. As the warm air rises, it starts to cool off and its molecules move closer together, causing it to sink again. The air surrounding the Earth is constantly moving. The air also has pressure, which is the weight of the atmosphere pressing down. Air pressure can be measured with a tool called a barometer. High pressure develops in areas where air cools and sinks. This usually causes fair weather with cool temperatures and few clouds. Low pressure tends to cause warmer stormy weather. Air masses with different temperatures and amounts of moisture (humidity) are sort of like oil and water – they don't mix well! Rather than blending together, they push against each other creating clouds that can develop into storms.

Tornadoes: Tornadoes, also called twisters, are violent pillars of spiralling air accompanied by powerful wind. They usually happen very quickly and only travel a few miles, but can destroy whatever is in their path. They can reach speeds of 300 miles per hour (mph) and tear roofs from houses and launch cars through the air! The central part of the US from Texas through South Dakota, experiences so many tornadoes each year that it's earned the nickname 'Tornado Alley.'

Large thunderstorms are formed when cool, dry air mixes with warm, moist air. In 'Tornado Alley,' cool, dry air is pushed down from the Rocky Mountain range or Canada while warm, moist air comes up from the Gulf of Mexico. Since warm air and cool air have different pressures, they swirl and spin when they meet, becoming unstable. If there's also a lot of moisture in the air and rapidly swirling winds, a horizontal column of spinning air might form inside the thunderstorm. This swirling air can quickly become a funnel cloud and with the downward force of rain, hail, and wind, the funnel can get tipped or tilted (into a vertical position), sweeping across the ground as a tornado.



Avalanche and Its Types

An avalanche is a mass of snow, often mixed with ice and debris which travels down mountain sides, destroying all in its path. There are four main types of avalanche;

1. Loose Snow Avalanche

They are common on steep slopes and are seen after a fresh snowfall. Since the snow does not have time to settle down fully or has been made loose by sunlight, the snow-pack is not very solid. Such avalanches have a single point of origin, from where they widen as they travel down the slope.

2. Slab Avalanche

Loose Snow Avalanches in turn could cause a Slab Avalanche, which are characterized by a the fall of a large block of ice down the slopes. Thin slabs cause fairly small amounts of damage, while the thick ones are responsible for MANY FATALITIES.

3. Powder Snow Avalanche

The bottom half of this avalanche consists of a slab or a dense concentration of snow, ice and air. Above this is a cloud of powdered snow, which can snowball into a larger avalanche as it progresses down the slope. The speed attained by this avalanche can cross 190 miles per hour and they can cross large distances.

4. Wet Snow Avalanche

These are quite dangerous as they travel slowly due to friction, which collects debris from the path fairly easily. The avalanche comprises of water and snow at the beginning, but understanding of avalanches has showed us that it can pick up speed with ease.

Extradition is the formal process of one state surrendering an individual to another state for prosecution or punishment for crimes committed in the requesting country's jurisdiction. It typically is enabled by a bilateral or multilateral treaty. Some states will extradite without a treaty, but those cases are rare.

Waiver: In what is the least controversial alternative, a fugitive can waive the formal extradition process and agree to be transferred to foreign authorities.

Deportation: Rather than extradite non-nationals, some countries agree to deport them, sometimes outside of any formal administrative process. For instance, in cooperation with US border agents, Mexican authorities have informally deported many individuals, often suspected in narcotics crimes, to the United States.

Extraordinary rendition: With extraordinary or irregular rendition, a fugitive is typically spirited from a country of refuge and denied access to its judicial process. Human rights groups have claimed that extraordinary renditions are illegal, particularly those intended to subject detainees to harsh interrogation techniques in foreign countries.

Foreign prosecution: A final option is for the foreign government to prosecute the individual, which often occurs when the individual is a national of that country and therefore not extraditable.



Extradition and Its Alternatives

Simple and Compound Interest

Asad Aziz

(a) Rs.1150
(c) Rs.1350(b) Rs.1250
(d) Rs.1450

11. Find simple interest on Rs.5000 at 12% p.a. for 73 days.

(a) Rs.100
(c) Rs.140(b) Rs.120
(d) Rs.190

12. Find the principal amount, if interest on it was Rs.1200 at 8% p.a. for 2 years.

(a) Rs.5000
(c) Rs.7500(b) Rs.7000
(d) Rs.8000

13. In how many years will the sum of Rs.4000 yield an interest of Rs.1080/- at 9% p.a.?

(a) 2 years
(c) 4 years(b) 3 years
(d) 5 years

14. In how many years will sum of Rs.6000 yield an interest of Rs.1200 at 8% p.a.?

(a) 2 years
(c) 3 years(b) 2½ years
(d) 4 years

15. At what rate of percent per annum will a sum of money double in 8 years?

(a) 11.50%
(c) 13.50%(b) 12.50%
(d) 14.50%

16. The compound interest on a certain sum for 2 years is Rs 412 and the simple interest is Rs 400. What is the rate of interest per annum?

(a) 4%
(c) 6%(b) 5%
(d) 8%

17. An amount of money grows up to Rs 11520 in 2 years and up to Rs 13824 in 3 years on compound interest. What is the sum?

(a) Rs.8000
(c) Rs.10000(b) Rs.9000
(d) Rs.12000

18. A man deposits Rs 1000 in one bank at 8% p.a. and Rs 3000 in another bank at rate 4% p.a. Find the rate of interest for the whole sum.

(a) 4%
(c) 6%(b) 5%
(d) 7%

19. A certain sum of money amounts to Rs.7000 in 8 years at 5% per annum. What is the sum?

(a) Rs.4000
(c) Rs.6000(b) Rs.5000
(d) Rs.7000

20. An amount of money grows to Rs. 67600 in two years and to Rs. 87880 in 3 years on interest compounded annually. What is the rate of interest?

(a) 10%
(c) 30%(b) 20%
(d) 20%

21. A certain amount becomes Rs. 627200 in two years and Rs.702464 in three years. If the interest is compounded yearly what is the rate of interest?

(a) 8%

(b) 10%

(c) 12%

(d) 15%

22. A person invested Rs. 25000 in bank for 2 years at simple interest of 30% per annum. After 2 years, he invested the whole amount in another scheme for 3 years at C.I at 10%? Find interest.

(a) Rs. 24240
(c) Rs.28240(b) Rs. 26240
(d) Rs. 30240

23. What would be the compound interest obtained on an amount of Rs.4400 at a rate of 10% p.a. after 2 years?

(a) Rs.824
(c) Rs.972(b) Rs.924
(d) Rs.998

24. What would be the compound interest obtained on an amount of Rs.2700 at a rate of 9% p.a. after 2 years?

(a) Rs.307.87
(c) Rs.507.87(b) Rs.407.87
(d) Rs.607.87

25. The difference between simple and compound interests on a certain sum for 3 years at 5% is Rs.61. Find the sum.

(a) Rs.8000
(c) Rs.10000(b) Rs.9000
(d) Rs.12000

Explanatory Note

Interest is the cost of borrowing money, where the borrower pays a fee to the lender for using the latter's money. The interest, typically expressed as a percentage, can be either simple or compounded. Simple interest is based on the principal amount of a loan or deposit, while compound interest is based on the principal amount and the interest that accumulates on it in every period. Since simple interest is calculated only on the principal amount of a loan or deposit, it's easier to determine than compound interest.

Simple Interest

Simple interest is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Simple Interest} = P \times r \times n$$

where:

P=Principal amount

r=Annual interest rate

n=Term of loan, in years

Compound Interest

Compound interest accrues and is added to the accumulated interest of previous periods; it includes interest on interest, in other words. The formula for compound interest is:

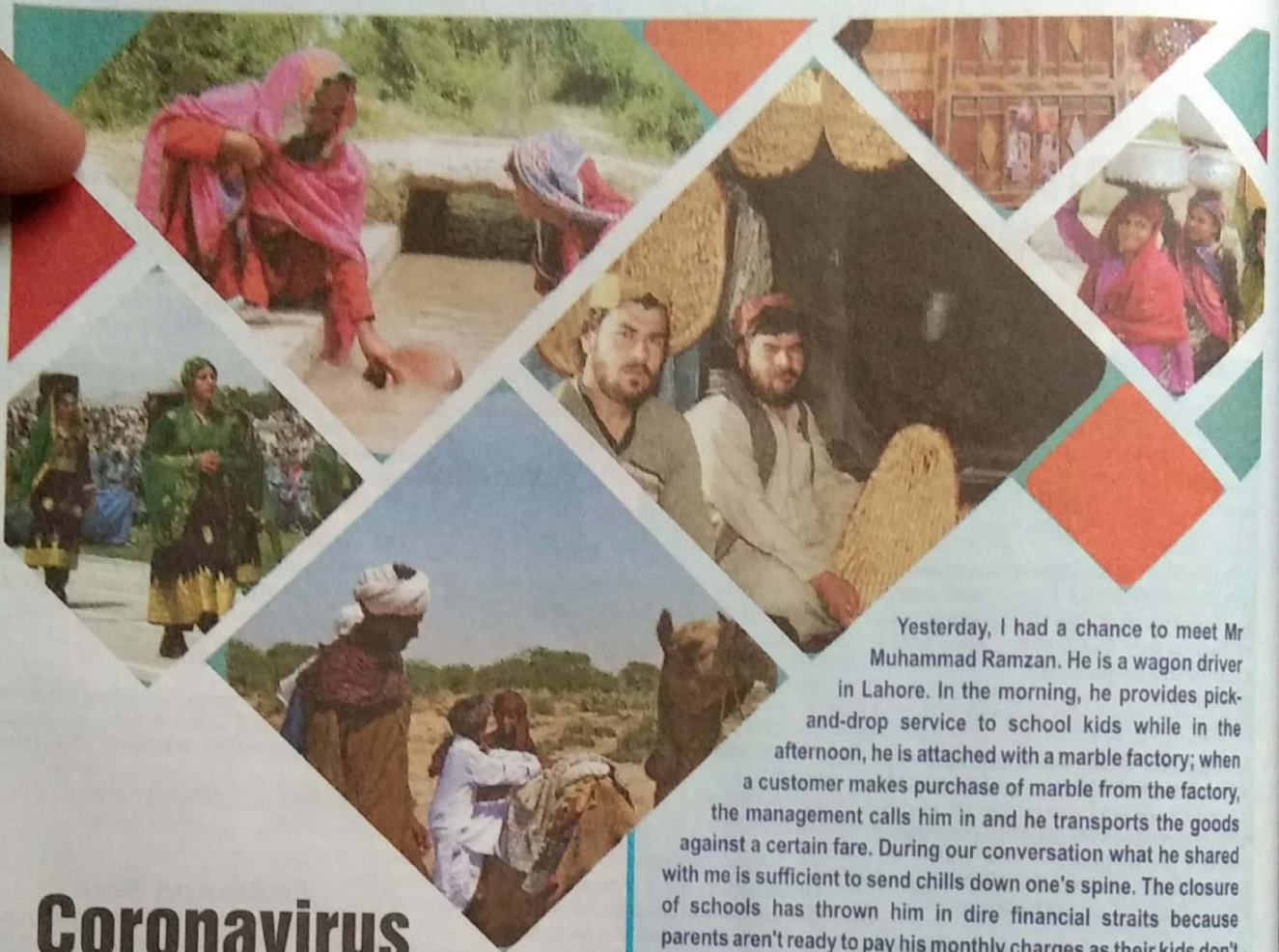
$$\text{Compound Interest} = P \times (1+r)^t - P$$

where:

P=Principal amount

r=Annual interest rate

t=Number of years interest is applied



Coronavirus *Hits* Pakistan Hard

Informal sector of economy in dire straits

Shabbir Ahmad Shaheen is the proprietor of a Lahore-based design and construction company. His business started as a part of informal economy but it is now a firm that regularly pays taxes and has a wide network of labour and skilled workers attached with it. He, too, is worried about the prevailing situation. He says that coronavirus fears had brought the construction sector to a standstill. No new work is being started, and only in-process works are being completed. Moreover, many owners have opted for discontinuing the work due to which he and other people attached with his firm have become jobless. These thoughts of Mr Ramzan and Mr Shabbir reflect the looming humanitarian crisis that is knocking at our doors in the wake of the coronavirus-forced lockdown. The

Yesterday, I had a chance to meet Mr Muhammad Ramzan. He is a wagon driver in Lahore. In the morning, he provides pick-and-drop service to school kids while in the afternoon, he is attached with a marble factory; when a customer makes purchase of marble from the factory, the management calls him in and he transports the goods against a certain fare. During our conversation what he shared with me is sufficient to send chills down one's spine. The closure of schools has thrown him in dire financial straits because parents aren't ready to pay his monthly charges as their kids don't go to school anymore. On the other hand, due to coronavirus fears, construction sector has come to a halt, so he is rarely able to transport marble. Ramzan is married and lives in a rented house with his family for which he is the only bread winner. Almost all his monthly income comes from his work as wagon driver. He said, "Coronavirus has made our lives living hell; on the one hand, I am afraid of the virus while people too have limited their movement and activities, on the other. I have no work to do; how I will be able to make both ends meet?"

Muhammad Atif Sheikh spread of coronavirus diseases (Covid-19) has a two-fold impact, especially on people whose work falls in the informal sector of the economy. They not only have the fears of contracting Covid-19 but sources of their income too are getting curtailed. They have to work—and earn—daily to buy food and other daily necessities for their dependents. Any drastic change in work prospects and routine life upends their life because their work—be it a daily wage or a regular employment or even a business—does not have social security, i.e. legal, economic and social recognition. Their work does not have any formal registration and record and, hence, is out of the tax net. Due to this, it becomes increasingly harder for the government to provide them with some sort of aid during the time of an emergency or a natural calamity. The

Government of Pakistan is also faced with this dilemma. Although the relief package announced by the Prime Minister does contain special measures for employers and employees alike, only time will tell how, and to what extent, it benefits the informal economy. This relief package along with delay in imposing a stricter lockdown seems an attempt to keep the informal economy alive. However, its repeated mention by the premier has raised many questions about this sector of economy: what is informal economy? How is it formed? What is its volume in Pakistan? And, what are its advantages and disadvantages? In order to understand the informal economy, we need to first understand the term 'informal work' which is of two types: self-employment, and jobs.

Daily wagers, labourers, masons, at-will workers, self-employed, rickshaw and taxi drivers, vendors, cart pushers, barbers, waiters, domestic workers, waste collectors, shopkeepers, tailors, carpenters, plumbers, mechanics, electricians, cobblers, painters, porters, and other individual service-providers are some forms of informal work or employment which do not have any legal or social protection. Similarly, businesses where people are hired to work on daily or monthly remunerations, either under a contract or at-will, but are not provided with the facilities they are entitled to under the labour laws, especially social security, and where the revenues generated are not documented and hence kept out of the tax net, fall into this category. Informal economy includes all economic activities - legal as well as illegal - that are kept out of the national record or are not reported in the national income account.

Generally, informal economy is considered operating parallel to the formal economy and income generated through it is undocumented and no tax is paid on that. It is, however, not necessary that informal employees be a part of informal economy rather they are found in formal institutions as well, e.g. contract employees in government departments who have no other privilege than salary and some limited leaves. Moreover, many business enterprises that are part of formal or documented economy are increasingly hiring informal employees, e.g. men and women who are hired by manufacturing concerns for packaging work they do while staying at homes. All this is happening in

countries where there are stringent labour laws as well as those where laws are a bit lax or have not been revamped over the years. Informal economy is a global trend nowadays because in today's global economy not enough jobs are being created and even many formal jobs are increasingly falling in informal category. Furthermore, people who do not find a formal, salaried job, enter the market and do whatever they can to earn a livelihood.

Experts suggest that a major factor behind exponential growth of informal economy is heavy tax burden. Most research conducted to examine the link between the taxation levels and the informal economy concludes that

with the rise in taxation, the cost of doing business in the formal sector of economy also increases, ergo swelling size of informal economy. Economists believe that rising prices of eatables, low tax-to-GDP ratio, inflation, poverty, down- or right-sizing of employees, geopolitical circumstances and natural calamities add an impetus to the growth of informal economy. Low economic growth is a direct consequence of ballooning informal economy. Countries with persistently low economic growth have huge informal economies and higher tax evasion ratios. And, where standards of human development are low, the size of informal economy will be quite big.

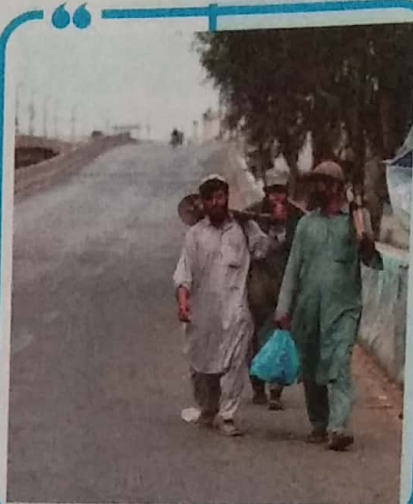
Another major cause behind a big informal economy in a country is corruption. Those in higher echelons of power take bribes and kickbacks which, in turn, increase the cost of establishing new formal business concerns. This makes informal economy luring for investors. There is a direct link

between the size of informal economy and levels of corruption; a technical report titled as "The Informal Economy of Pakistan," published by Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), suggests that an improvement of one point on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index means a reduction of 5.1 percentage points in the size of a country's informal economy. Ease of doing business is another factor that is adversely impacted by corruption. Moreover, researchers have also found that the size of informal economy is bigger in those countries that have large youth populations. That's why informal jobs are



going to last in short, medium and long terms. This fact has been aptly depicted by a report entitled "Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Brief," published by International Labour Office (ILO). The report says, "The majority of the world's global employment aged 15 and above — 61 per cent — are informally employed: a total of 2 billion workers." It means that according to ILO, six workers out of ten and four out of every five companies are working in the informal sector. All these factors behind the growth of informal economy are found in Pakistan also. As per ILO report, Pakistan is at 33rd place on the list of countries where the share of informal employment in total employment (excluding agriculture) is higher. Literacy is another factor; as per UNESCO figures, the highest number of out-of-school children in 2018 was in Pakistan, the highest number of illiterate adults of age 15 years and above, in 2017, was also hosted by Pakistan, making the country the fifth largest in terms of low literacy rate of this age bracket. In addition, the literacy rate of people age 10 years and above is 62.3 percent as reported in the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2018-19. In terms of corruption, we are at 120th place among 180 countries on Transparency International's CPI 2019. Similarly, a high ranking of the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index means the regulatory environment is more conducive to the start and operation of a local firm. Ease of Doing Business Index 2020 has reported that Pakistan is among the top 10 countries with the most improved business climate. Pakistan carried out six reforms that helped in improving its ranking but the country is still on 108th position; which means a lot is still to be done.

Experts also opine that a large youth population is a major factor behind the growth of informal economy. Pakistan has a unique distinction in these terms as well because the United Nations defines persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years as 'youth' while the Commonwealth standard, which is followed by Pakistan, sets it between 15 and 29 years. On these standards Pakistan has, respectively, third and fifth largest



population of youth in the world, per the US Census Bureau International database, the youth population of Pakistan will be 45.1 million according to the Commonwealth standard while that for Commonwealth wealth standard will be 64.1 million by 30th June 2020.

These objective realities are only some factors behind the growth of informal economy. It is reflected in the following figures:

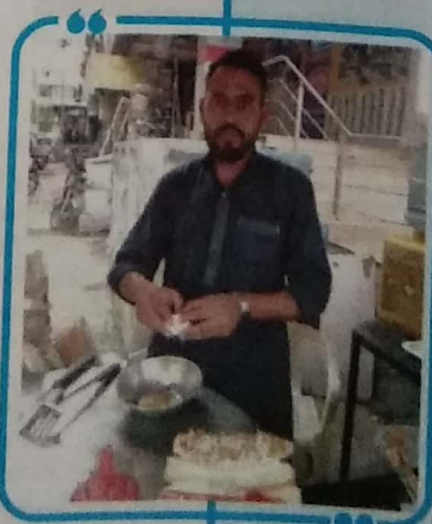
In 2001-02, the ratio of non-agricultural employment in the informal sector was 64.6% but it increased to 72% in 2017-18 — an increase of 7.4 percentage points. Currently, a vast majority of the

country's population is financially dependent on the informal sector of economy. Pakistan Labour Force Survey 2017-18 proves this assertion by reporting that 7 out of 10 non-agricultural jobs are provided by the informal sector — it means nearly 72% of the country's labour force is attached with informal economy (this ratio is 68.3% in urban areas and 76% in rural areas). Furthermore, according to an IMF report, 36.8% of Pakistan's total GDP in 2017 came from the informal sector.

Keeping in view these data, here is the most relevant question: Is informal economy advantageous or harmful? This question has divided the world opinion into two groups; those against it assert that with the growth in economic development, the informal economy ebbs away while those who favour it say that informal economy is not only fully functional in many countries of the world but is also thriving. Evidence, however, suggests that some parts of informal economy grow

during times of recession while some thrive when there is faster economic growth. For instance, manufacturing of to-be-imported goods gets pace when there is a period of high economic growth. Likewise, during the times of recession or depression, workers who lose regular jobs have to find jobs in the informal sector.

Another criticism made on informal economy is that this sector largely comprises those companies or businesses that try to evade taxes and government regulations. The argument presented to refute this assertion is that most informal



businesses are owned and operated by a single person who does not hire people to work for him, and even if they rope in some other people, they are mainly members of their families who are not paid any salary. Some informal workers opt for doing informal jobs due to their needs or because that is their family business. In addition, regulations and codes of conduct are largely irrelevant for them and so they hardly follow those.

The next objection is that informal economy has nothing to do with the formal economy. This objection is overruled by asserting that a large number of informal workers supply what they produce to registered business concerns. Many also give their merchandise to middlemen or such firms who then supply that to registered business concerns. Similarly, most fruit-sellers buy that from main fruit market and some street vendors sell products of different companies on commission basis.

Leaving aside the arguments given for and against informal economy, one undeniable reality is that the informal economy is the source of income and of getting rid of poverty for billions of people worldwide.

The more one works hard, the more the opportunities of development. And, this is the hard work that 13.2% of Pakistan's total population (the chunk of population attached with informal economy) is putting in. When these lines are being written, lockdown at provincial level has been imposed albeit a partial one. But, people are not taking it seriously and are flouting government orders to stay at homes. The government is thus at a crossroads: if it imposes a complete, strict lockdown, millions of people attached with informal economy will find it hard to earn a daily living. It has already said that it does not have enough resources to provide food to every household. On the other hand, if it goes on with partial lockdown, lives of millions of people are under threat. Even the fear of spread of Covid-19 has brought social and economic activities to a standstill, diminishing the opportunities to earn a respectable living for those in the informal sector.

Although the Government of Pakistan has not taken a final decision yet, most countries in the world are adopting the St. Louis model which was introduced by Dr Max C. Starkloff, the Health Commissioner of American city of St. Louis, who closed down the whole city during the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic. As soon as the first case of influenza was reported in the city, Dr

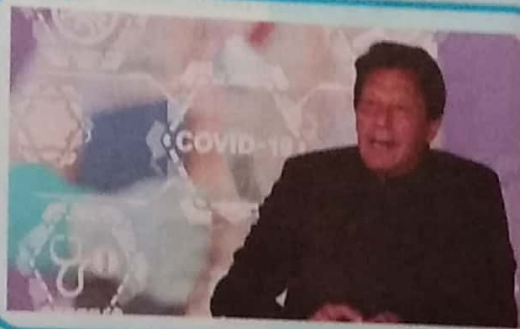
Starkloff closed down all schools, offices, malls, courts, playgrounds, libraries, churches and cinemas, prohibiting public gatherings of more than 20 people. Traders put up huge protests against this decision but Dr Starkloff and city's mayor—Henry W. Kiel—remained firm on this step which was later known as social distancing. On the contrary, situation in Philadelphia remained starkly opposite; in mid-September that year, Spanish Influenza spread like a wildfire through military and navy installations. But, city's Director Health, Wilmer Krusen, told people that the affected military personnel were suffering from seasonal flu and that will be controlled before it affects the masses. When some cases were reported on 21st of September, doctors

suspected that it could be the start of an epidemic, but Krusen and his medical board claimed that by keeping themselves warm and their feet dry, Philadelphians can minimize the danger of catching the flu. The number of affected people kept on rising but Krusen did not budge to the pressure of city's political administration and decided to go on with the scheduled Liberty Loans Parade in

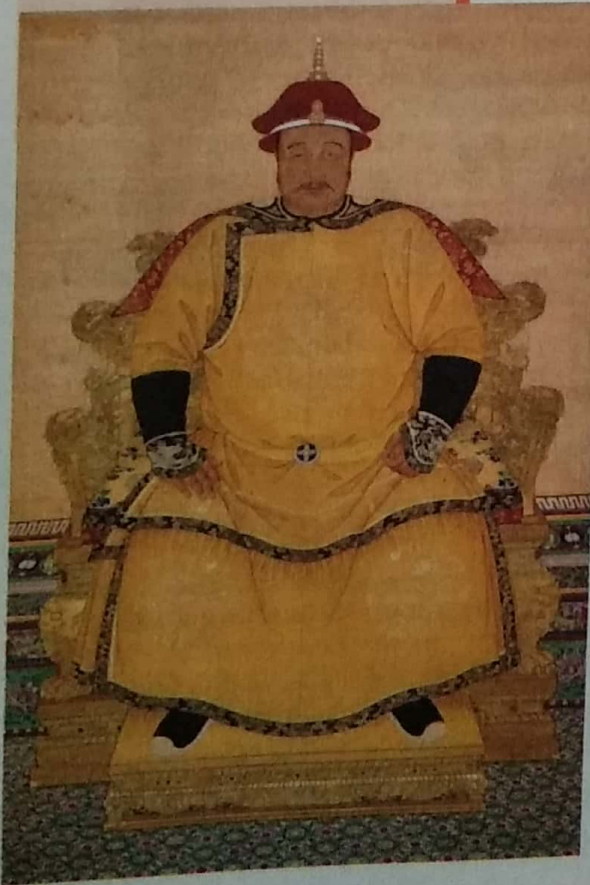
which nearly 200,000 people participated. What happened then was horrific; within 72 hours after the parade, all of city's 31 hospitals were flooded with patients affected with Spanish Influenza and nearly 2600 people lost their lives by the weekend. Although the city was then closed, it was too late by then. On the contrary, the situation in St. Louis remained under control and very few deaths were reported there.

Whatever may be the decision of the Government of Pakistan, one thing is absolutely clear, that is, it is in the interest of the people and we should believe in that. We must abide by the instructions given by the authorities. Moreover, it is the responsibility of every individual whom Allah Almighty has bestowed with riches and wealth that he should increase his philanthropic activities in these trying times. If you are well-off, please don't make cuts to your employees' salaries, help others even before they ask for it, give food to those whose daily living comes from the informal sector of economy as they will be facing severe hardships amidst the lockdown. To defeat the problem that affects us all, we need to be united and be cooperative to others. ■

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Sovereignty is the ultimate power, authority and/or jurisdiction over a people and a territory. No other person, group, tribe or state can tell a sovereign entity what to do with its land and/or people. A sovereign entity can decide and administer its own laws, can determine the use of its land and can do pretty much as it pleases, free of external influence. The concept of sovereignty, as it is used in international law today, derives from the idea of the 'sovereign', the monarch, of medieval Europe. However, today the term is used to identify the ultimate power of a state, regardless of whether there is a monarch or not.



Sovereignty in International Law

Ayeza Fatima

When you ask those born in this age of the internet about the concept of royalty or monarchism, you should expect mixed answers. Anything from the latest Disney movie to the fairytales of the British royal family seem to be the accepted definition. The world has forgotten that just about a century ago, most of human civilization was governed by monarchies. From the moment of birth, a monarch was taught to be a leader for the rest of his or her life. Today, many members of these ancient families have been reduced to footnotes in history. We know of eminent persons such as Dom Duarte Pio, the "king" of Portugal; Constantine II, the "king" of Greece; and Simeon II, the "king" of Bulgaria who do not administer their countries but retain certain rights according to international law. Though they lost all the pomp and circumstance, have they also lost their sovereign right to rule?

The Definition of Sovereignty

Sovereignty is one of the most important concepts of political science and international law. Many believe that no other term has given rise to more discussion and confusion than the word "sovereignty." It is used in a variety of ways which are not clearly distinguished from each other. The word "sovereignty" is derived from the Latin word "*superanus*" which means "supreme power".

Definitions of sovereignty are numerous and varied. French jurist and political philosopher Jean Bodin was the first Western writer to develop a systematic doctrine of sovereignty. He defines it as "the supreme power over citizens and subjects, unrestrained by law." Dutch humanist, diplomat, lawyer, theologian and jurist Hugo Grotius defines sovereignty as "the supreme political power vested in him whose acts are not subject to any other and whose will cannot be overridden."

The ultimate authority to rule within a polity is known and commonly accepted at present times as a definition of sovereignty. Historically, the ultimate authority within a polity was vested in the person of the sovereign, a monarch whose rule was granted by divine right or local custom, and often by a good deal of force.

The Concepts of Sovereignty

Things were quite simple and defined up until the Middle Ages. God was sovereign, and that is all that mattered. In the Book of Psalms, Psalm 24:1 writes that "the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" offered soothingly emphatic confirmation of this. Few temporal leaders would dare usurp God's position at the top of the body politic. This gave the Church a central place and enormous influence in all affairs of the state. Eventually, God was good enough to delegate. He kept things simple by investing sovereignty in monarchs. Now they, and they

alone, had absolute power within their territories. And they were at pains to stress that this monopoly of sovereignty was a "divine right." Laws may now have emanated from human words and deeds, but for anyone thinking of causing trouble, such laws were still seen to be the expression of God's will.

Similarly, the Quran affirms that the term "Sultan" meant moral or spiritual authority. It was used later by Muslim sovereigns to represent political and governmental power. This was written in the Surah ar-Rahman (55:33) which roughly states that "O assembly of the jinn and the human! If you have power to penetrate through the diametrical zones of the heavens and the earth, then penetrate (go through them)! You cannot penetrate through them except with a Sultan (authority)!"

As the "Age of Reason" or the Enlightenment took Europe by storm, the world of absolutes began to slip away. The concept of sovereignty started to mutate and increasingly became more complex. Ideas of popular will, individual rights and "parliamentary sovereignty" slowly gained a foothold across the region. Things were no longer simple.

What is de jure and de facto sovereignty?

Sovereignty being a query of fact, a contrast is sometimes made between de jure and de facto sovereignty. The de jure sovereign is the legal sovereign and the de facto sovereign, is obeyed by the people whether he has a legal status or not. A de facto sovereignty may rest purely on physical force, where de jure sovereignty has the legal right to command obedience.

The distinction between the two comes out abruptly in times of revolution or usurpation. Some developments mean a mere change in the personnel or organization of government, while others result in a complete destruction of the old legal sovereign and the establishment of a new one.

How long does a de jure sovereignty last?

Under the principles of public international law, a ruler who is deprived of the government of his territory by either invaders or revolutionaries remains the legitimate, de jure sovereign of that country while the de facto regime set up by the revolutionaries or invaders is considered a "usurper," both constitutionally and internationally.

The question of how long a de jure sovereign may continue in this status is answered by the book "Synopsis of the Law of Nations" written by Johann Wolfgang Textor, which states that de jure sovereigns retain their status as

long as they don't surrender their sovereignty to the de facto government. A dispossessed royal family may keep their claims alive by filing diplomatic protests against the usurpers as required by International Law. That claim can only be abandoned when the protests are stopped. The failure of royal heirs to prosecute or assert their claims may disqualify them from any consideration to the inheritance. This corresponds to Emmerich de Vattel's legal treatise "The Law of Nations: Or, Principles of the Law of Nature Applied to the Conduct and Affairs of Nations and Sovereigns," which states that only when such protests cease does a prescription arise against the de jure rights of a legitimate claimant. When this occurs, the sovereignty passes back to God, who gave it or may be passed in some cases to the de facto government which at that point would be legitimized and will acquire the full de jure rights of the former sovereign.



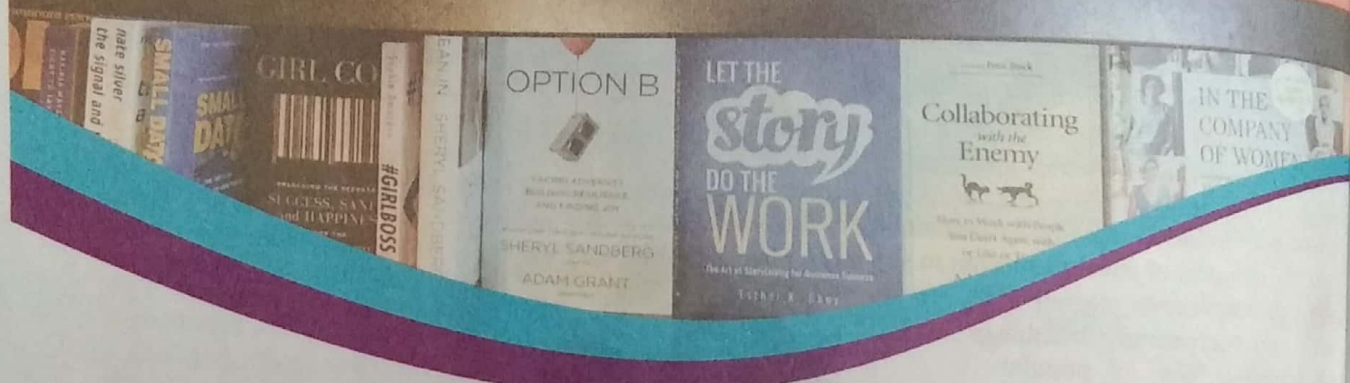
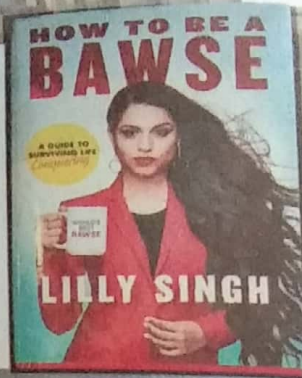
Such legitimate claimants are de jure sovereigns and, as such, remain head of the government-in-exile of their usurped territory. Public international law towards the legal validity of objections against the usurpation of sovereignty applies to both republic and monarchical states. Prof. Stephen P. Kerr in his academic paper entitled "Dynastic Law" states that "The United States of America refused to recognize the 1939 Soviet usurpation of the three Baltic Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This facilitated the maintenance of Governments-in-Exile of the Baltic Republics and the maintenance of embassies in Washington, DC, which persisted through the Cold War era until these countries managed to recover

their independence. Accordingly, matters pertaining to de jure Governments-in-Exile are matters of public international law. The de jure sovereignty of a state which has been usurped by a foreign conqueror is not extinguished by such usurpation but survives as long as such sovereignty is kept alive by competent diplomatic protests."

Conclusion

Non-reigning or dispossessed monarchs, who, as de jure sovereigns, may continue to exercise their sovereignty. This conforms with public international law fully taking into consideration that they do not surrender their sovereignty to the de facto government. This is legally supported for as long as such sovereignty is kept constantly affirmed with strong diplomatic campaigns. ▢

Superwoman's Secrets of A Successful Life



Lilly Singh is an Indian-Canadian comedian, also known as Superwoman on YouTube. She is the highest-paid woman on YouTube with over 14 million subscribers and over 2.5 billion views. She is also a TV show host that is aired with the name 'A Little Late with Lilly Singh'. In addition, she is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, a Hollywood actress, a philanthropist and an international bestselling author of the book 'How to be a Bawse: A Guide to Conquering Life'. This is a unique, inspiring and colourful book which is full of Lilly's beautiful pictures. It has firsthand experiences of her personal life. Unlike the boring personality-development books, this one is full of zeal and zest as well as freshness. Lilly coined the term 'BAWSE' which is a different version of 'a boss'. A BOSS is a professional head at a workplace who gives orders but a BAWSE not just survives but conquers every aspect of life. (S)he is the winner in personal life, in relationships, in communication and in physical, mental, emotional social and spiritual life. (S)he carries the day in life with flying colours by putting feathers in his or her cap.

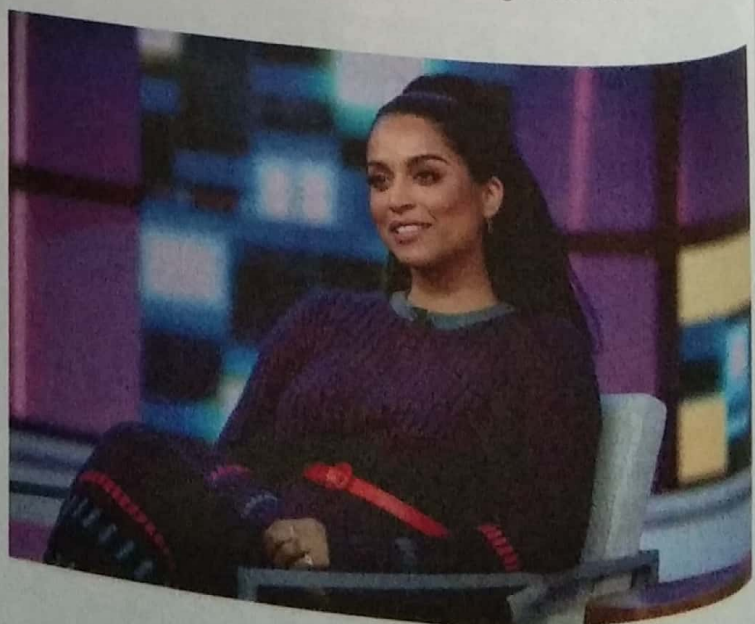
Written in 2015, the book is divided into 4 parts containing 50 chapters spread over 386 pages. At the end of each chapter, there is a niche called 'OUT of the BLUE' where Lilly

Reviewed by: Saba Sibghat

relates that part of the book with her own personal life experiences. She compares her successful life in 2015 with her depressed and failed life in 2010. She explains her journey from depression to happiness from 2010 to 2015 and how she turned her obstacles into stepping stones.

Part 1: Master your mind

This is the first part with 12 chapters. Here Lilly says, "Our mind is our biggest asset, but also our biggest obstacle... befriend your mind." (Page 1) She suggests that you should play games with your mind, give your mind some challenges and exercises and, if it



...give rewards to it and prepare it for the next challenge.

The crux of these 12 chapters is: Come out of your comfort zone which she calls 'get uncomfortable'. Don't become a victim of your emotions; rather, replace them with productivity and don't be afraid of making mistakes as she says, "Making mistakes is cool." She advised to own your mistakes and learn from them. She suggests self-actualization, self-estimation and introspection over the reasons behind your hard work, or otherwise. In this part, Lilly advises us to not just be a survivor but be a winner. It means that you should make your work a labour of love. In fine, she says: Fall in love with yourself, be your own hero. Hug yourself. Don't be lost in hustle and bustle of life, pause for a while and reflect.

Part 2: Hustle hard

This part consists of 17 chapters. After talking about determination and self-commitment, Lilly teaches about inspiration. She tells that before hustling hard, you need to be super-motivated and fully inspired to do that thing. You must find your inspiration. Some people get inspired even by watching movies. She is a believer of having a vision and aiming high and hitting the bull's eye. She coined her own golden rules by saying, "Put all your eggs in one basket and they will turn out to be golden eggs." It means not having a plan B and sticking to only one plan in life with our actions speaking louder than words. She believes in moving progressively in life by taking stairs, instead of elevators, of success. She stays active when she is hydrated and stress-free because it's about energy management, not the time management, and energy should not be wasted in stress.

Part 3: Make Heads Turn

'A BAWSE doesn't blend into a crowd - they stand out'

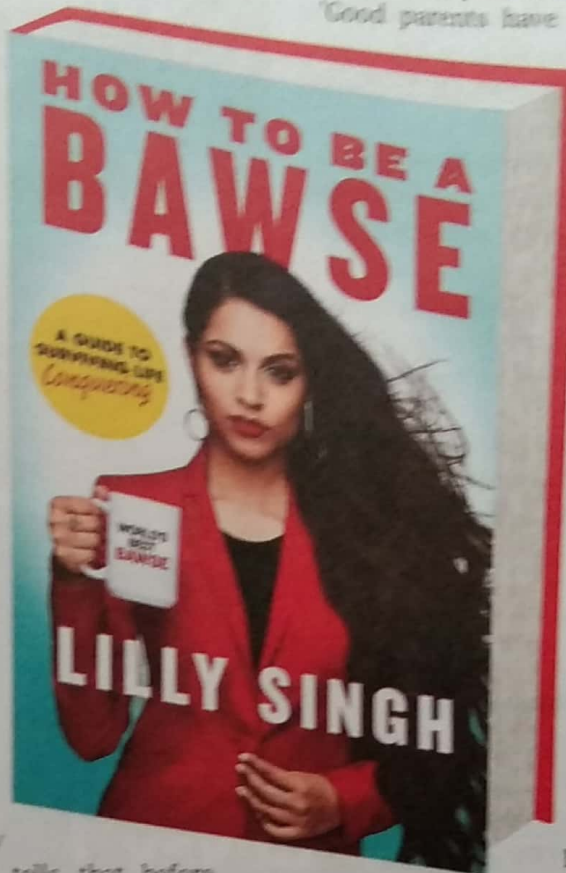
'A Bawse is a person who protects his or her dream.'

'Good parents have an innate desire to protect their children, and I have that same instinct when it comes to my brain babies.' (Page 236)
A bawse invests time, energy and money in himself/herself to achieve his/her goals. She calls three of them as currency. She mentions Malala Yousafzai in Chapter 34 with a picture of Malala and Lilly herself and appreciates her efforts for girls' education worldwide.

Part 4: Be a Unicorn

In this part, Lilly teaches about the power of values, the reason to express the gratitude, and how to not just coexist with others but positively impact them. She says that like a chameleon, create an environment that is conducive to your creativity. For Lilly, it's important to be a Santa who is full of milk of human kindness with human empathy and sympathy instead of being a robotic person. Start thinking that not everyone hates you! Boost yourself by thinking good things in your life including your family, your adventures, your Instagram likes, your career and your beauty. The Bawse understands the priorities in his or her life very well and arranges them in a categorical way. In this section, she has included her pictures with her favourite personalities like Salina Gomez. At the end, she says, "Have values, not hobbies." And synchronize your body, mind and soul to lead a life of a BAWSE to conquer the battle of life. ■

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Pandemic

by Saba Sibghat

Covid-19 started from China Wuhan
And became an international pandemic in no time
It's the biggest health and economic crisis of all times
People are home quarantined for an infinite time
It is recommended to wash your hands from time to time
The careless victims are also partners in crime
Scientists are helpless to pull humanity out of this slime
Eat well for your immunity
And stay home for your safety
Read books and introspect to keep your minds sound
We were lost somewhere in hustle and bustle
It's the time of self-realization and a new you to be found
Entire humanity is behaving like the part of one body
If its one part is in pain
The other have no gains
For the first time, we felt that we have one soul
We are not enemies, but friends with the similar goals.

Reviewed by: Saba Sibghat

'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is then not an act but a habit'. — Aristotle

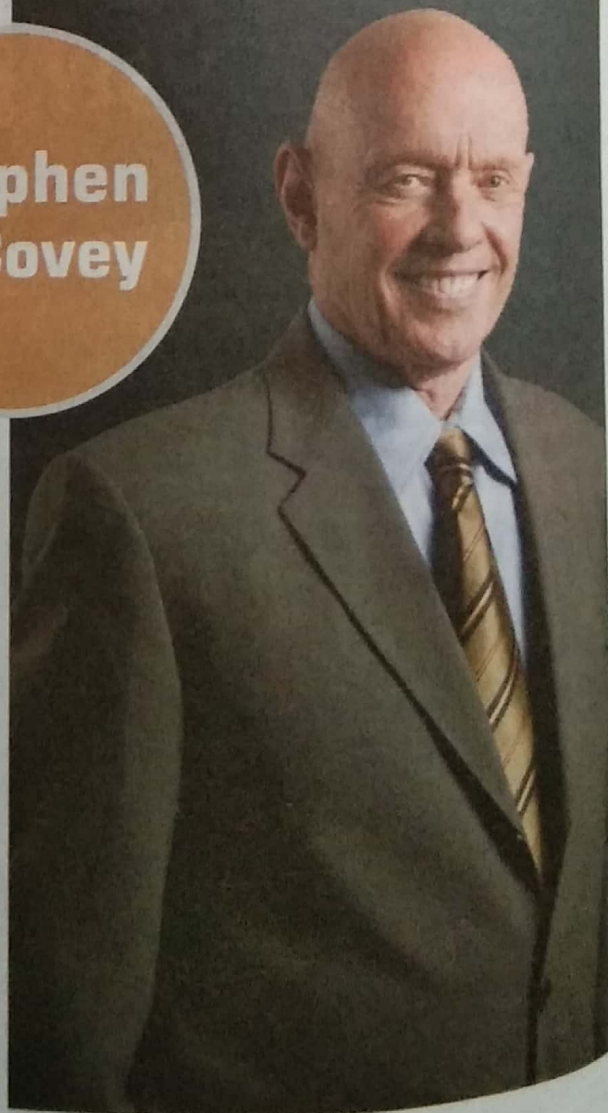
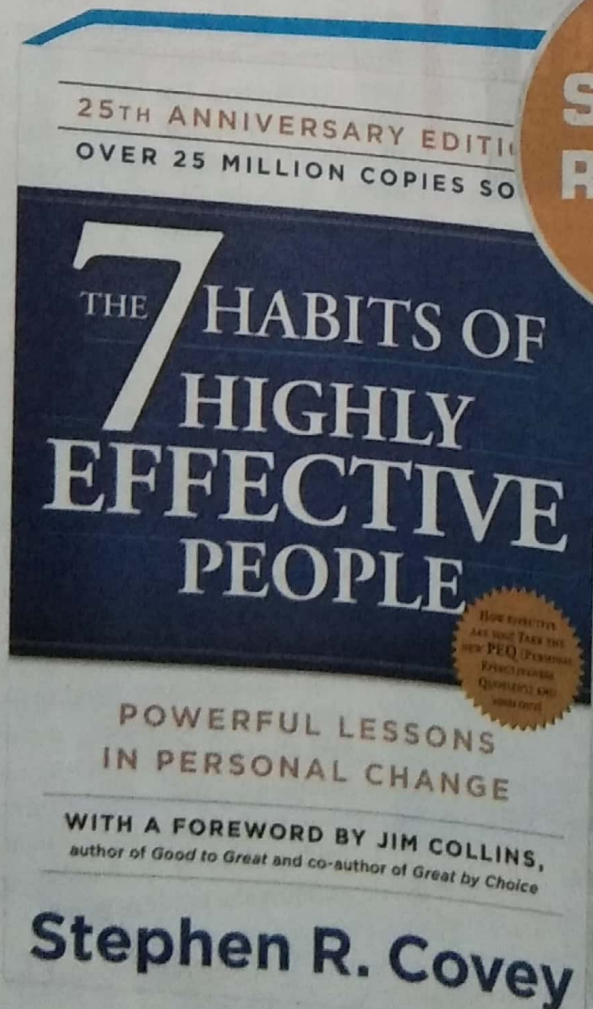
In 1989, Stephen R. Covey, a noted American educator, author, businessman and keynote speaker, introduced a new genre in literature: personal development. This book sold like hot cakes and became an international bestseller in no time.

All the successful and the richest people of the world have read it, for sure. And it is a key to success for all the students as well. These are not the seven habits but the seven pearls of wisdom. This book is a hallmark in personal and professional success. Covey is of the opinion that in order to be outwardly successful, you have to first carry the day from within. So, he titles the first three habits as those of 'Private Victory'.

"Our character, basically, is a composite of our habits... Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny..."

**What it takes
to be
Effective — and
Successful**

**Stephen
R. Covey**



1. Proactive

This is the first habit of the most effective people, which says that we need to be proactive, instead of being reactive. By taking the charge of our own life, we should take the responsibility, instead of playing the blame game. We should take the initiative because we are the programmers and the co-creators of our own life; we write a program and then execute that. But most people live their life according to their emotions, moods, feelings and how others treat them. They are always reacting to what other people think and say about them. These are the reactive people. In order to be proactive, you should not wait around other things to happen; you should, instead, be in control of your own self. When you think that the problem is outside of you—whether it's your boss, your spouse or some situation—you observe yourself in that problem and that thought is the problem, in fact. Your life is a product of your principles and values, and not your emotions. Your life is a product of your decisions, and not your circumstances.

"Reactive people are often affected by their physical environment. If the weather is good, they feel good. If it isn't, it affects their attitude and their performance. Proactive people can carry their own weather with them." (Page 79)

"Reactive people build their emotional lives around the behavior of others, empowering the weaknesses of other people to control them ... Proactive people are driven by values—carefully thought about, selected and internalized values." (P-79)

2. Begin with the end in mind

"To Begin with the End in Mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination." (P-105)

It's an act of visualization, basically. We need to have a clear vision of the task before starting it. We need to have a plan about it or else we will lose interest in the task. We need to have a right road map to see whether we are on the right path, and where we want to end. Make sure that you are working towards your particular goal. For example, if you start a jigsaw puzzle and you have the end in mind, it will be a lot easier for you to solve the puzzle. Everything is created twice, first in the mind of the person, then in reality, e.g. painting. You first make a building on paper, and then you build it or else it would cost you a lot of money.

3. Putting first thing first

"Things that matter most must never be at the mercy of things that matter least." — Goethe
It is important to categorize your priorities in order of

their importance. Covey categorizes the tasks on the basis of 'importance' and 'urgency'. Most people spend most of their time in putting out fire by focusing on the things which are in highest urgency quadrant. As for the long-time effectivity, you should spend as much time in quadrant number 2—these are the tasks that are low in urgency but high on importance. It means you are working on the things which you really and truly value. These are the things that give you a sense of fulfilment. It is a paradigm shift; the way we look at the time management. In his book, the symbol of time management is not a clock, but a compass which symbolizes purpose. Your inner compass is your vision for your life.

"You're the creator. You are in charge." (P-155)

"We all have some Quadrant I activities in our lives. But Quadrant I consumes many people. They are crisis managers, problem-minded people, the deadline-driven producers. As long as you focus on Quadrant I, it keeps getting bigger and bigger until it dominates you." (P-160)

"There are other people who spend a great deal of time in urgent but not important." (P-161)

Quadrant 4 activities are trivia, busy work, some mail, some phone calls, and time-waster, pleasant activities.

"People who spend time almost exclusively in Quadrants III and IV basically lead irresponsible lives." (P-162)

Quadrant 2 is the heart of effective management. These are the things that are not urgent but are important.

4. Think win/win

Now starts the public victory that is mutually beneficial and mutually satisfying solution.

This is a situation we can imply in personal as well as professional relationships. We should always look for the mutual interest. There are people who think win/lose. Then, there are people who think lose/lose and they are the complete losers. And, then there are complete winners who think win/win.

One person's success should not be at the expense or exclusion of other person.

"Win-win is a belief in the Third Alternative. It's not your way or my way; it's a better way, a higher way." (P-218)

Take the example of marriage.

"Who's winning in your marriage?" is a ridiculous question. If both people aren't winning, both are losing."

5. Seek first to understand then to be understood

It's like stepping into someone else's shoes.

There are four dimensions of communication: reading, writing, talking and listening. How much time do we really spend listening? Covey wants us to practice empathetic listening. We need to be more empathetic in

listening instead of only being sympathetic. Listening carefully before speaking is the best way of understanding and learning.

"When we really, deeply understand each other, we open the door to creative solutions..." (P-271)

Empathetic listening can create the bridge of communication by chasing away the gulf of misunderstanding. It also chases away the stumbling blocks in communication and turns them into stepping stones to synergy.

6. Synergy

Synergy means combination of different energies. It makes a bridge of association, communication and collaboration with different kinds of people. It's not only to tolerate difference of opinion, but also to celebrate that and to make use of the differences for a larger interest. Interdependency is a decision which only independent people can make. It means that your success is tied with other people's success, and that you work together. Working together can achieve a lot more than you do independently.

Covey calls it 'Creative Corporation'.

"...[E]ffective interdependence can only be built on a foundation of true independence." (P-195)

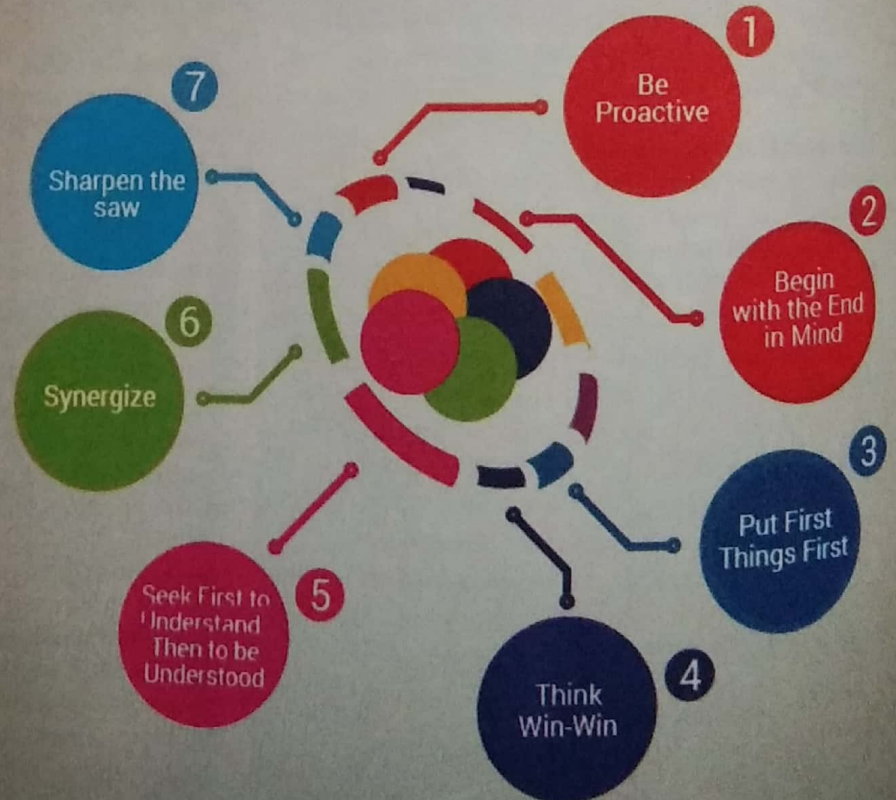
7. Sharpening the saw

You need to sharpen your saw in all the four dimensions of your life; physical, mental, social and emotional and spiritual, regularly and consistently in a wise and balanced way. Sharpening the saw can save half your time. For instance, you see a guy cutting a tree with the rough saw and you say, "Hey, why don't you sharpen the thing? It's going to take you 6 hours at this rate." He says, "I don't have time to sharpen the thing." You say, "If you spend one hour in sharpening the saw, it will take you only 3 hours to cut this tree. So sharpening the saw can save half of your time." This can aptly be applied to our life when we say we don't have time to exercise, we don't have

time to invest in our family, do you know why do we say that? We say that because these are the things that are not urgent but, in fact, are the most important in our life. For instance, if you don't exercise today, you will have to pay its price 30 years later in the form of different ailments. So, sharpening your mental saw by continuing to learn, reading books, educating yourself and teaching others, making some emotional investment in your family by spending quality time with your love ones, and by taking care of your body through exercise and taking of your soul with meditation, prayers, music, introspection and study is an investment that will make your body, mind, and people and soul an asset for you, for tomorrow.

Covey laid down the foundation of what it takes to be a great leader and the book offers groundbreaking insight into how to begin developing as a person and as a leader. Covey passed away in 2012 but his work continues to live on, proving true the maxim "No person lasts forever but books and ideas can endure." ■

SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE



From Third World to the First

Lessons from Lee Kuan Yew's Autobiography

Singapore, a city-state, has recently reached a level of development that to term it as the most futuristic city of the world won't be an exaggeration. The Marina Bay Sands, The Hive at NTU, those super trees at Gardens by the Bay and many other marvels cast a spell on the visitors; such is the physical and infrastructural development of the country. But there is more than only ostentatious engineering models; their human development is as impressive as their physical one. It is the most competitive country in the world; one of the best ranking in Ease of Doing Business, an amazing GDP growth rate – it remains an entrepot, one of the centres of world finance and cosmopolitanism.

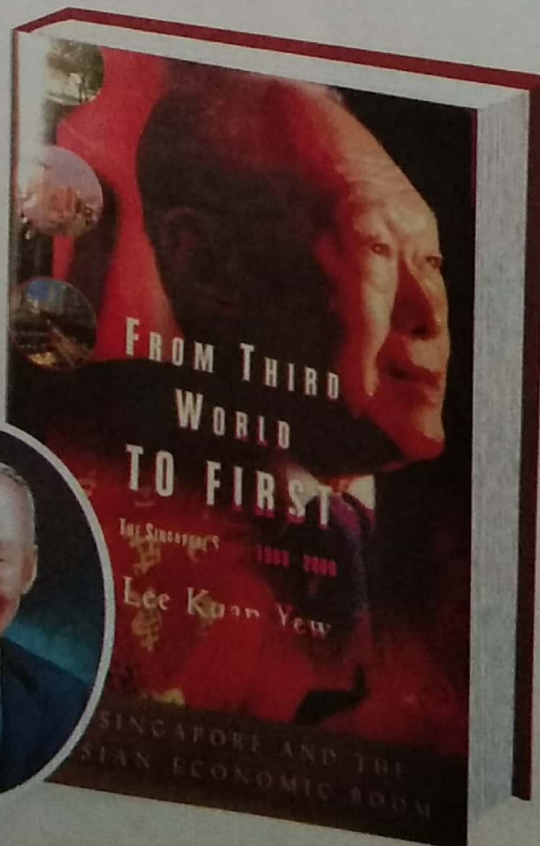
But it wasn't always the case. In 1965, at the time of Singapore's independence, the annual per capita income there was less than \$1,000 which now stands at more than \$54,000. This shows a journey, from an abyss to a summit. And the country had its guides. Lee Kuan Yew, the founder of Singapore as we know it today, was the leader of those guides.

In his autobiography, "From Third World to the First: The Singapore Story: 1965–2000," Lee Kuan Yew has explained in an interesting flair that how he and his team steered the country from unemployment, poverty and poor planning towards this marvel what we see today.

From the issue of setting up their own army and defence forces once Britain decided to leave the country (they did so in 1968, gradually) to forming a Central Provident Fund (CPF, hereinafter) that has

been the backbone of various government initiatives, Lee explains in vivid detail his diplomatic overtures, his continuous visits and incessant discussions with diplomats from US to China and from Middle East to India.

To lead a country of only 640 sq. km, with no natural resources surrounding, at that time, with communists and adversaries, wasn't an easy task. Throughout the book, the reader will see Lee's focus and attention on learning and trying new things – that is to say constant innovation to bring about positive change. He thought that it is only by making the common-man of his country a stakeholder in its progress that will incentivize him to work hard and be a truly responsible citizen. He did this by forming strong, independent and exceptionally efficient governmental institutions, e.g. BECD (Bases Economic Conversion Department), HBD (Housing Board Department) and EDB (Economic Development Board).





Young Singaporeans, local and foreign graduates used their skills by putting in countless hours to persuade MNCs (Multinational Corporations) to invest in Singapore - Lee says that his team had to point out to the investors where Singapore exactly was while talking to them!

One of the most significant lessons to be learned from Lee's autobiography is to cherish and strive for young talent not only in private industries but in the government bodies as well. As he explains, and the similarity was striking, many veterans and "old guards" are against young people as they think that a dearth of experience, of all that road shows, that politicking, sloganeering and others tactics of such ilk, don't make

"Is this an open, or is this a closed society? Is it a society where men can preach ideas - novel, unorthodox, heresies, to established churches and established governments - where there is a constant contest for men's hearts and minds on the basis of what is right, of what is just, of what is in the national interests, or is it a closed society where the mass media - the newspapers, the journals, publications, TV, radio... are fed with a constant drone of sycophantic support for a particular orthodox political philosophy?

I am talking of the principle of the open society, the open debate, ideas, not intimidation, persuasion not coercion."

-Lee Kuan Yew (1964), a few months before independence

them a qualified candidate for such important governmental positions.

Lee's opinion was totally opposite to the aforesaid approach. He was so fond of recruiting young talent for government positions that he started a proper recruitment drive, something that governments rarely do for senior positions. So much so that he contacted the corporate leaders of various MNCs to inquire about how they hire people. Their system (that of Shell, the giant oil company) is instructive to mention here - that Lee also considered the best and later on employed in government hiring. The company focused on what they called a person's CEP, Currently Estimated Potential. To

determine this potential, they assessed the candidate on three qualities: 1) Power of Analysis; 2) Power of Imagination; and 3) Sense of Reality. All these three made what the company called "Helicopter Quality" - building on a person's ability to see the bigger picture all the while zooming in on various and important details.

Later on, the same approach was inculcated in selection for Singaporean public service (in 1983), replacing the system that British had installed (that still runs in our country).

These were but only a few insights that his cogent autobiography holds inside. Reading the book will introduce one to the secrets of backdoor diplomacy; how

Singaporeans, if I can chose an analogy, we are the hard disk of a computer, the foreign talent are the megabytes you add to your storage capacity. So your computer never hangs because you got enormous storage capacity.

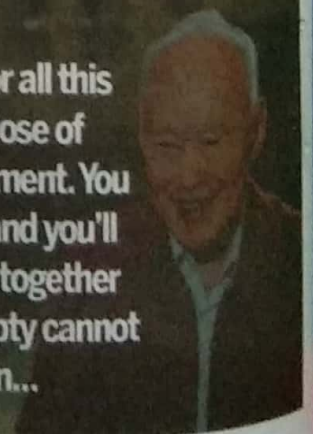


world leaders talk, behave and conduct at national and international level. How various bodies work for particular changes in the global order and how a person, prime minister of a small island, gave his life to endeavour for the country and make it a First World oasis in the midst of a Third World desert.

There is much to learn from it for everyone; a student, a politician, a diplomat or a visionary leader trying to steer one's country towards success.

Happy Reading! 📖

You know, the cure for all this talk is really a good dose of incompetent government. You get that alternative and you'll never put Singapore together again: Humpty Dumpty cannot be put together again...





WORLD IN FOCUS

M. Usman Butt

NATIONAL



Feb 16: A toxic gas leak killed five people and sickened dozens of others in a Karachi.

Feb 16: Pakistan's Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi and Britain's Dominic Inglot won their first ATP Tour doubles titles at the New York Open 2020.

Feb 16: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called upon India to ensure that the people of the Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed the same fundamental rights and freedom of movement as being enjoyed by the people of Azad Kashmir. The UN chief offered his role as a mediator and said his good offices could be used for this purpose.

Feb 16: A special session on sustainable development and climate change was held in Islamabad. Speaking on the occasion, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned the world is losing the battle to control carbon emissions, adding that people should invest in green energy because of the high dividends.

Feb 16: Nadir Magsi and Tushna Patel, the defending champions, maintained their supremacy in their respective categories in the 15th Cholistan Jeep Rally.

Feb 16: Pakistan won their first Kabaddi world cup after they defeated India— six time winner —in the final of the World Circle-Style Kabaddi Cup 2020.

Feb 17: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)—a Paris-based global anti-money laundering watchdog—met to review the progress made by Pakistan towards implementation of its 27-point action plan.

Feb 17: 'International Conference on 40 Years of Hosting Afghan Refugees in Pakistan: A New Partnership for Solidarity' opened in Islamabad with representatives of nearly 20 countries in attendance.

Feb 17: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalisation Committee, in an unprecedented move, appointed a female general secretary Manizeh Zainli with immediate effect.

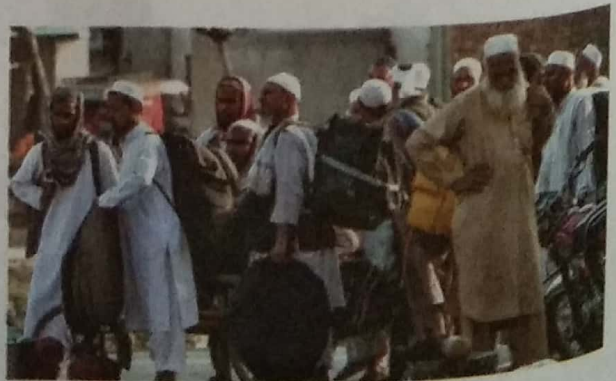
Feb 18: Pakistan carried out a successful test of the nuclear-capable Air-Launched Cruise Missile Ra'ad-II.

About Ra'ad 2

The 4.85 metre-long cruise missile Ra'ad-II has a range of 550-600 kilometres. It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear payloads. It is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems ensuring engagement of targets with high precision.

Feb 19: United Nations (UN) Secretary General António Guterres visited the Kartarpur Corridor.

Feb 19: A delegation of British parliamentarians from the All-



Party Parliamentary Kashmir Group called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at his office.

Feb 19: Senior journalist Fasih-ur-Rehman Khan passed away.

Feb 20: Attorney General Anwar Mansoor Khan resigned.

Feb 20: Former IGP Sindh, Allah Dino Khawaja, commonly known as AD Khawaja, was posted as secretary of the Narcotics Control Division (NCD). He was currently serving as the Inspector General of National Highways and Motorways Police.

Feb 20: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Kuwait.

Feb 20: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) approved the Uber and Careem merger.

Feb 20: The fifth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) kicked off with a colourful opening ceremony at National Stadium Karachi.

Feb 20: Pakistani batsman Umar Akmal was suspended indefinitely under the PCB Anti-Corruption Code.

Feb 20: Prime Minister Imran Khan directed a freeze on the gas and electricity tariffs.

Feb 20: Pakistan boxing hero, and former South Asian and Asian Championship gold medalist, Olympian Usmanullah Khan, passed away.

Feb 20: The 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) concluded in Islamabad.

Feb 20: The 2019 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) was released. It was compiled and launched by the Idara-i-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), a public trust striving to promote education in Pakistan.

Feb 21: Comrade Dr Yasrab Tanvir Gondal, better known as Lal Khan for his Marxist views, breathed his last. He was 64.

Feb 21: The FATF decided not to blacklist Pakistan and give it more time to complete the 27-point action plan it has committed to.

Feb 21: Prime Minister Imran Khan led the grand opening of the newly-constructed facility at Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital Trust, raising the hospital's total capacity to 400 beds. The hospital was given as a gift from Turkey to Pakistan in 2014.

Feb 22: Operation Raddul Fassad (RuD), which was launched across the board in February 2017, completed its three years.

Feb 22: President Dr Arif Alvi announced honorary citizenship and the highest civilian award for Peshawar Zalmi skipper Darren Sammy in recognition of his services for the revival of international cricket in Pakistan.

Feb 22: The Ministry of Law and Justice notified Khalid Jawed Khan as the new Attorney General (AG) for Pakistan with the rank and status of federal minister.

Feb 23: The five-day cultural festival in Sibi concluded.

Feb 23: PM Imran Khan inaugurated the tree plantation campaign at the Kundian forest in Mianwali district.

Feb 23: In view of deaths caused by novel coronavirus in Iran, Pakistan temporarily closed its border with the neighbouring country.

Feb 23: The concluding ceremony of the fifth Pakistan Mother Languages Literature Festival was held in Islamabad.

Feb 23: COAS Gen Bajwa visited Morocco where he held meetings with Morocco's Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in Charge of the Administration of National Defence, Abdellatif Loudiyi, and Inspector General of Royal Armed Forces, Gen Abdelfattah Lourak.

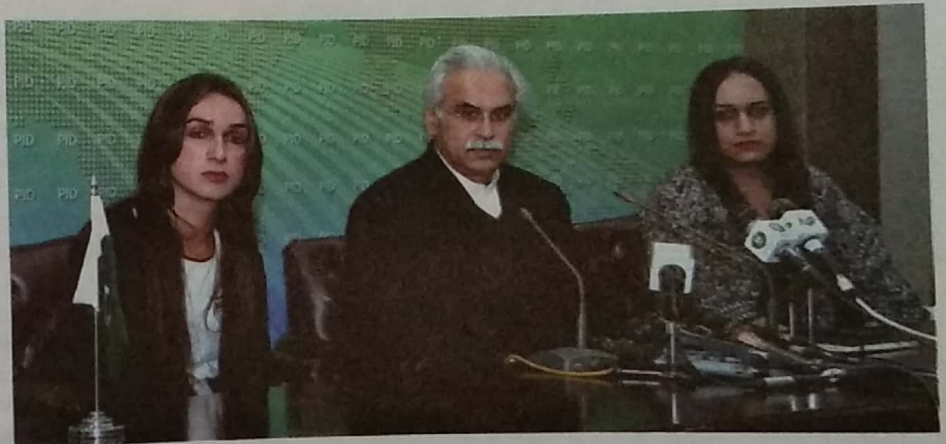
Feb 23: Bay horse Piyara Sayeen lifted the Sunshine Cup in the winter Gymkhana race meeting.

Feb 24: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the support of the Government of Japan launched the "Strengthening tsunami and earthquake preparedness in the coastal areas of Pakistan," project in Karachi.

Feb 24: Farrukh Khan assumed the charge of his office as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

Feb 25: Pakistan paid an amount of \$93.5 million (Rs1,442 billion) to Russia in order to settle a 40-year-old trade disputed that issue was a major hurdle in boosting the former's trade ties with the latter.

Feb 25: Two senior officers of Pakistan Navy, Commander Coast Rear Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi and Commander



Karachi Rear Admiral Zahid Ilyas were promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral.

Feb 25: A European Union delegation led by Her Excellency Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan met COAS General Bajwa. Ambassadors of different countries including Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Deputy Head of Missions of France and Hungary, Charge de Affaires of Greece, Attaché (Pol. Affaires) of Austria and Senior Technical Advisor MOFA of Denmark were also part of delegation.

Feb 25: The government decided not to extend the bail of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and declared him an "absconder" for violating the bail requirements.

Feb 25: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) ordered the release on bail of former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and former interior minister Ahsan Iqbal in LNG Terminal and Narowal Sports City project cases, respectively.

Feb 25: Former mayor of Karachi and a senior leader of Jamaat-i-Islami, Niamatullah Khan Advocate, passed away. He was 89.

Feb 25: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet approved

absorption of 9,619 special police personnel into regular police force that would cost the government Rs2.76 billion per annum.

Feb 25: Punjab Minister for Higher Education Raja Yasir Humayun Sarfraz announced scholarships for top performing students in sports.

Feb 25: Iftikhar Durrani officially resigned as Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Media Affairs.

Feb 26: The Committee of International Arbitration Tribunal issued a stay order on the request of Pakistan in the Reko Diq case in which International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) had announced a massive \$5.976 billion award against Pakistan in July 2019.

Feb 26: US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross met Energy Minister Omar Ayub Khan and SAPM on Petroleum Nadeem Babar and discussed ways and means to foster bilateral trade links.

Feb 26: Former Chief Justice of Pakistan Tassaduq Hussain Jilani received the prestigious Clifford Wallace Award by the J. Reuben Clark Law Society.

Feb 26: Pakistan confirmed the first two cases of the novel coronavirus.

Feb 26: Noted Pashto folk artist Suriyya Khanum alias Mahjabeen Qazalbash breathed her last.

Feb 26: Advocate General Punjab Ahmad Jamal Sukhera resigned.

Feb 27: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that it had reached a staff-level agreement with Pakistan authorities "on policies and reforms needed to complete the second review" of the \$6bn Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

Feb 28: An around four-year-old ban on issuance of no-objection certificates (NOCs) for any kind of construction and development activities in Gwadar was lifted with immediate effect.

Feb 28: The federal government accepted the Sindh government's demand and appointed Mushtaq Mahar as new police chief in the province.

Feb 28: The financing agreement on 'Public Financial Management Support Programme-II' between Pakistan and the European Union was signed whereby the latter will provide a grant of €13 million for improving public sector financial management in the federal government and provincial governments of Sindh and Balochistan.

Feb 29: The World Bank announced to provide \$36 million to Balochistan to help improve the quality of health and education services in four of its districts.

Mar 01: PMIK launched the multibillion rupee Blue Area commercial project.

Mar 01: International Labour Organisation (ILO) published a study entitled 'Female Labour Migration from Pakistan' in which it has been reported that that

there is very little information about economic opportunities available to women overseas and the job search duration for women in Pakistan is greater than it is for men.

Mar 01: Javeria Khan became only the fourth Pakistan woman cricketer to register a century of T20I matches.

Mar 01: Federal Minister for National History and Literary Heritage Division Shafqat Mehmood appointed a new board of governors for Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

Mar 01: Top seed Mohammad Shoaib beat Turkey's Ayar Goklap to win the Boys' Singles title of the Syed Dilawar Abbas Memorial ITF Pakistan Junior Tennis Championships.

Mar 02: The Ehsaas undergraduate scholarship programme was formally launched by PMIK.

Mar 02: A Saudi delegation led by Deputy Defence Minister, Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, called on COAS Gen Bajwa at the GHQ and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Mar 03: Pakistan Navy's exercise the SEASPARK concluded in North Arabian Sea.

Mar 03: The government wrote a letter to the UK authorities for repatriation of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Mar 03: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan changed the portfolios of minister for information Shaukat Yousafzai and adviser to the chief minister on merged districts Ajmal Wazir.

Mar 03: The Gilgit-Baltistan government announced to keep the Khunjerab Pass closed for an indefinite period over coronavirus threats.

Mar 03: Former director general (DG) of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regularity Authority (Pemra), Haji Ahmed Malik, passed away.

Mar 04: The US State Department honoured Pakistani human rights activist and lawyer Jalila Haider, among others, with its International Women of Courage Award for the year 2020.

Mar 04: The World Bank approved a \$300-million financial package for human development in Pakistan.

Mar 04: The Senate passed with amendments the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Bill, 2019.

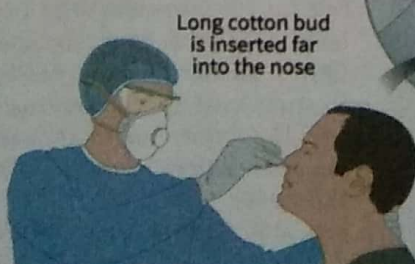
Mar 05: Pakistan ranked 76th out of 100 countries in the 2020 Inclusive Internet Index, conducted by the UK-based The Economist Intelligence Unit.

Mar 05: The federal government appointed Sadia Khan the Commissioner Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan for a period of three years.

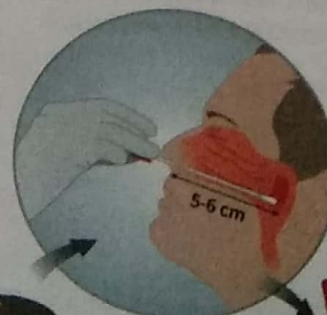
Mar 05: Punjab government removed Cane Commissioner

Nasal swab test for COVID-19

Determines whether a person has SARS-CoV-2 at the point when the test is carried out

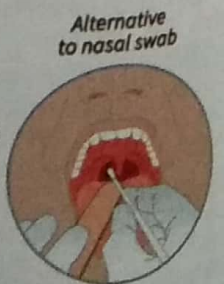


Long cotton bud is inserted far into the nose



May cause momentary discomfort

Swab rubbed against nasopharynx to take mucus sample



Alternative to nasal swab

Sample sent to laboratory for genetic analysis

Result available within a few hours

Ali Shah, while Member Revenue Board Nadeem Abbas was ordered to take charge.

Mar 06: Gen (retd) KM Arif, former Vice Chief of the Army Staff, died.

Mar 06: The trendsetting comedian from Punjab, Amanullah, who ruled commercial theatre for almost three decades, passed away. He was 70.

Mar 06: The International Trade (INTA) Committee of EU Parliament extended the Generalised System of Preferences-Plus (GSP-Plus) status for Pakistan for the next two years.

Mar 09: PMIK inaugurated the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Under-21 Games at the Peshawar Sports Complex.

Mar 09: Bloodbath was witnessed at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). Within just seven minutes of the start of trading, the benchmark KSE-100 index caved in by 2,302 points (6.41percent) — the biggest single day decline in 10 years. A massive sum of Rs184 billion was wiped off the market capitalisation during the day.

Mar 09: Chairman Board of Investment Zubair Gilani resigned.

Mar 10: The LHC ruled that the financial institutions are not required to obtain a decree from banking court to sell mortgaged properties for recovering defaulted loans.

Mar 10: The Sindh police launched an indigenously-developed mobile phone application that would help develop database of crimes against children, including registration of cases, progress on their investigations and police performance in the area.

Mar 11: A Pakistan Air Force F-16 aircraft crashed in Shikarpur. The pilot of the aircraft, Wing Commander Nouman Akram was martyred in the crash.

Mar 12: Pakistani filmmaker Shehzad Hameed won the Outstanding Achievement Award for his film, *Enemy Within: Caught in the Crossfire*, at the Tagore International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020.

Mar 12: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) arrested Jang group editor-in-chief Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman in a 34-year-old case related to 54-kanal land he allegedly acquired "illegally" in the tenure of then chief minister of Punjab Nawaz Sharif.

Mar 12: The Supreme Court directed the Pakistan Railways to revive the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) within six months.

Mar 12: The Punjab cabinet declared medical emergency across the province to ensure maximum measures to control the spread of coronavirus.

Mar 13: South Asia Partnership (SAP) and Women Action Forum (WAF) launched 'Democracy and Empowered Women' (Dazba Programme).

Mar 13: Telenor Pakistan became the third telecom company to successfully test 5G.

Mar 14: Former federal minister, veteran politician and a pioneer member of the Pakistan People's Party, Dr Syed Mubashir Hassan, died at 98.

Mar 15: Ghazanfar Mehmood won the 59th National Amateur Championship title.

Mar 15: Former KP governor Lt. Gen (retired) Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah died.

Mar 17: Well-known writer, scholar, researcher and first

novelist of Saraiki language Zafar Lashari died.

Mar 17: The National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) signed a Document of Understanding (DoU) with Siemens Healthcare Ltd, Powergroup and It's a Deal GmbH to collaborate in establishing Pakistan's first medical city in Islamabad, NUMS Institute of Advanced Studies and Research (NIASR) in Rawalpindi.

Mar 17: The two-day visit of President Dr Arif Alvi to China concluded.

Mar 17: Mian Bilal and ZTBL's Noor Malik annexed the men's and ladies' singles titles in the Servis Tyres Junior National Ranking Tennis Championship 2020.

Mar 17: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) suspended remaining matches of the Pakistan Super League (PSL-5).

Mar 17: Syed Mumtaz Alam Gilani, former MNA, first Human Rights minister and chief coordinator of the late PM Benazir Bhutto, passed away. He was 79.

Mar 18: The newly-constructed Sialkot-Lahore Motorway was opened for the general public.

Mar 18: Pakistan reported its first death from Covid-19—a 50-year-old man who was being treated at Mardan Medical Complex.

Mar 18: The Supreme Court of Pakistan granted bail to PML-N leaders Khawaja Saad Rafique and Khawaja Salman Rafique in the Air Avenue case.

Mar 19: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar set up Rs 5 billion special fund to deal with coronavirus.

Mar 19: Commodore Raja Rab Nawaz was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

Mar 19: Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan took oath as the 50th chief justice of the LHC.

About Justice Qasim Khan

Justice Qasim Khan received his matriculation certificate from Comprehensive School, Multan. He completed his graduation studies from Baha-ud-Din Zakariya University,

Multan and earned his LLB degree through Gillani Law College, Multan. After completion of studies, he started practicing law. He was appointed as Assistant Advocate General, Multan in the year 2000 and worked as such till June, 2009. He was elevated to the Bench in January 2010. He will retire on July 21, 2021 on attaining the age of 62.

Mar 19: President Dr Arif Alvi signed the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Bill, 2020, into law.

Mar 20: The US State Department announced to provide one million dollars to Pakistan to help fight coronavirus.

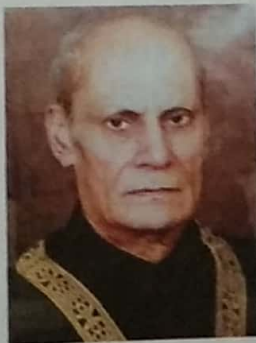
Mar 20: PMIK directed opening of border with Afghanistan to allow crossing over of trucks.

Mar 21: The government appointed Atif R. Bukhari the new Chairman Board of Investment (BoI).

Mar 21: Pakistan got 66th position on the World Happiness Report ranking, while its neighbour India was at a dismal 144 rank of a total 156 nations surveyed.

Mar 23: The federal government deployed Pakistan Army across Pakistan as well as Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) in the wake of coronavirus outbreak.

Mar 24: PMIK unveiled a financial relief package worth around Rs1.2 trillion to ward off the negative impact of coronavirus



on the country.

Mar 24: The State Bank of Pakistan reduced its benchmark policy rate by 150 basis points to 11%.

Mar 25: The SBP withdrew advance payment limit on imports of various essential merchandises amid Covid-19 pandemic.

Mar 25: The government notified oil, gas and related operations as 'Essential Services' to avoid any disruption due to the prevailing lockdowns in some provinces.

Mar 25: Egypt's Al-Azhar issued a Fatwa (edict) on the request of President Dr Arif Alvi permitting suspension of prayers to control the spread of coronavirus.

Mar 26: Saudi Arabia asked Pakistan not to prepare Hajj agreement this year.

Mar 26: PMIK announced a relief package under which ten million people belonging to low-income groups will get a Rs12,000 four-month stipend in a lump sum.

Mar 26: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser constituted a 25-member parliamentary committee having representation of all political parties to review, monitor and oversee issues related to coronavirus and its impact on the country's economy.

Mar 26: Sindh and Balochistan governments banned congregational prayers at mosques.

Mar 27: The United States placed Pakistan among the high-priority countries that will receive US assistance for curbing the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus.

Mar 27: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister, Raja Farooq Haider, announced state's highest official 'Nishan-i-Kashmir' award for Dr Usama Riaz of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) for carrying out his duty to fight Covid-19 at the cost of his life.

Mar 28: Azam Khan, one of the world's best squash players, died of coronavirus at the age of 95.

Mar 29: Qatar appointed Sheikh Saud Abdul Rehman Faisal Al-Thani as new ambassador to Pakistan.

Mar 30: The ADB approved a further \$2 million grant to

support Pakistan's efforts to combat coronavirus pandemic.

Mar 30: The Supreme Court suspended the high courts orders for the release of under-trial prisoners in view of the coronavirus outbreak.

Mar 30: PMIK announced to set up 'PM's Relief Fund for Covid-19' and a youth force to effectively tackle the situation arising out of the deadly contagion.

Mar 30: The Punjab government allowed treatment of critically ill patients of Covid-19 with chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine.

Mar 31: Jang Group's publisher Mir Javed-ur-Rehman passed away. He was 73.

Mar 31: The federal cabinet approved launching domestic Sukuk bond for generating Rs700 billion for financing the escalating budget deficit.

Apr 01: The Indian government announced a new set of laws for Indian-Occupied Kashmir, including domicile rights for Indian citizens.

Under the new law, those who have resided for a period of 15 years in the Indian-Occupied Kashmir (IOK) or studied for a period of seven years and appeared in Class 10/12 examinations in educational institutions located in the region are now eligible to become permanent residents.

Apr 01: The education ministry signed an agreement with Pakistan Television to launch a TV channel Tele School as an alternative to educational content delivery mechanism during closure of educational institution in the wake of coronavirus.

Apr 01: United Bank Ltd was declared Pakistan's Best Digital Bank for 2020 by Asiamoney, an associate of Euromoney.

Apr 01: The World Bank's board of directors approved a \$700 million additional financing for 250km transmission line of the Dasu Hydropower Project, which is to be completed by December 2023.

Apr 01: The seniormost judge of the AJK Supreme Court, Justice Saeed Akram Khan took oath as its acting Chief Justice (CJ).

Apr 02: The Sindh High Court (SHC) commuted the death sentence of prime suspect Ahmed Omar Sheikh to seven years in prison in the abduction and murder case of American journalist Daniel Pearl. The court also acquitted the other three accused who had been handed over life terms earlier.

Apr 03: PMIK gave the status of industry to the construction sector, and announced opening of the sector along with a package of incentives to boost it with a view to keeping the wheel of economy moving and mitigate impact of the lockdown on people.

Apr 03: The Sindh government issued orders to keep Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and three others who were acquitted in Daniel Pearl case, in custody for at least 90 days.

Apr 03: The federal information

CHRONOLOGY OF DANIEL PEARL MURDER CASE

Jan 23, 2002	Daniel Pearl is reported missing after he failed to follow the paper's routine of checking in with editors.
Jan 28	A group 'National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty' claims it has kidnapped him.
Feb 6	Police link the kidnapping to Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh. Omar is arrested, tells police Pearl is alive.
Feb 13	Police say Omar has confessed to the kidnapping but not disclosed Pearl's whereabouts.
Feb 14	Omar now says he believes the journalist is dead.
Feb 21	The US government confirms that Pearl is dead.
March 22	Four suspects — including Omar Sheikh — are formally charged with kidnapping, murder and terrorism by a Karachi court.
April 5	The trial of Omar and three others opens in Karachi.
May 17	Police oversee exhumation of a body near Karachi amid claims it could be that of Pearl.
May 18	US officials confirm the body is that of Pearl.
July 15	All defendants are found guilty of kidnapping and murdering Pearl by an anti terrorism court, Hyderabad.
Jan 20, 2011	Wrong men have been convicted of Pearl's murder, says probe.
Oct 24, 2014	Co-accused Qari Hashim is acquitted in murder case.
March 6, 2020	SHC reserves judgement in Pearl kidnapping and murder case.
April 2, 2020	Court overturns death sentence of main accused.



ministry de-notified more than 6,000 publications as dummy papers.

Apr 03: The Punjab government approved Punjab Rozgar Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs9.5 billion and allocated the amount to the Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) to chalk out employment opportunities for youths.

Apr 03: Pakistan and the World Bank signed a \$200 million 'Pandemic Response Effective Project' (PREP).

Apr 03: The reports of the inquiry committees tasked to probe sugar and wheat crises in the country were made public.

Apr 03: The government increased PTV fee from Rs 35 to Rs 100.

Apr 03: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar formally inaugurated Muhafiz Force and Muhafiz App (application) of Pakistan Red Crescent.

Apr 05: PMIK reshuffled the federal cabinet.

Syed Fakhar Imam was made Minister for National Food Security, replacing Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtyar, who would now take care of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Mr Bakhtiar has replaced Hammad Azhar, who has been made Minister for Industries.

MQM's Aminul Haq was appointed Minister for Information Technology.

Babar Awan chipped in as Advisor on Parliamentary Affairs, replacing Muhammad Azam Swati, who has been made Minister for Narcotics Control.

Apr 05: PM's Adviser Arbab Shahzad was removed.

Apr 06: In the wake of the wheat flour crisis inquiry report, Punjab Food Minister Samiullah Chaudhry tendered his resignation.

Apr 06: The government appointed Nausheen Amjad chief of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

Apr 07: The FATF extended its deadline for complying conditions for Pakistan for three months, up to September from earlier June 2020.

Apr 07: The Supreme Court held that the high courts could not exercise suo motu jurisdiction under Article 199 of the Constitution of Pakistan and there is no provision in the law about releasing prisoners on the basis of health emergency, therefore, the prisoners who have already been released must be rearrested.

Apr 07: President Alvi administered oath to Syed Fakhar Imam as Federal Minister for National Food Security.

Apr 07: The IHC ordered for restoration of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC).

Apr 08: JS Bank won the 'Best Bank for SMEs' and 'Best Bank for CSR' awards at the Asiamoney Awards 2020.

Apr 08: The interior ministry announced to extend all types of visa for foreign nationals, staying in Pakistan, till April 30.

Apr 08: PMIK approved summary for appointment of 16 press officers in important foreign capitals and diplomatic locations.

Apr 08: The Punjab government transferred Higher Education Department Secretary Sajid Zaffar Dali and gave additional charge to Punjab Labour and Human Resource Management Secretary Sarah Aslam.

Apr 08: Pakistan stayed away from the regional trade officials' video conference on Covid-19 hosted by India because it was not managed by the Saarc secretariat.

Apr 09: Mehdi Shah, a senior bureaucrat and brother-in-law of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, passed away.

Apr 09: Pakistan pledged \$3 million towards Saarc's Covid-19 Emergency Fund, the brainchild of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Apr 09: PMIK formally launched the Rs144 billion Ehsaas Relief Programme and a sum of Rs50bn was given to banks for distribution of Rs12,000 four-month stipend among the families of poor and daily-wage earners.

Apr 09: The Pakistan army shot down an Indian spy drone close to the LoC in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Apr 09: Former senator and central leader of PML-N, Saranjam Khan, passed away. He was 88.

Apr 09: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet cleared a cumulative bailout package of almost Rs300 billion for the power sector.

Apr 09: The ADB repurposed \$50 million from the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) to support the government's preventive and response efforts to fight Covid-19 in the country.

Ramadan One of the five pillars of Islam

1 Profession of faith

2 Prayer

3 Alms giving

4 Fasting at Ramadan

5 Pilgrimage to Mecca

The Islamic calendar
354 or 355 days
Composed of 12 lunar months
of 29-30 days

The arrival of the new moon marks the start and end of Ramadan.
This can be determined by:
• Astronomical calculation
• Direct observation

Ramadan
9th month in the Muslim calendar

Start: April 24/25, 2020
Eid al-Fitr: May 24/25, 2020
Eid marks the end of the holy month

During Ramadan, Muslims must not eat, drink or have sexual relations from dawn until sunset

Apr 10: The former ECP secretary, Babar Yaqoob Fateh Muhammad, was appointed chairman of the Federal Land Commission.

Apr 10: CJP Justice Gulzar Ahmed took his first suo motu notice over the "inadequate facilities" in the country to combat coronavirus.

Apr 10: PMIK reinstated Shehryar Afridi as the Minister of State for Narcotics Control.

Apr 11: Shehzad Arbab was appointed SAPM on Establishment.

Apr 11: Former senior minister Punjab and a prominent PML-N leader Raja Ashfaq Sarwar passed away.

Apr 11: Chief Minister Punjab, Usman Buzdar, announced Shaheed Package for those professionals and workers who may lose their lives in the fight against coronavirus.

Apr 11: Four-time MNA and senator Raja Muhammad Afzal, died. He was 86.

Apr 12: Renowned journalist, writer and poet Ahfazur Rehman passed away at the age of 78.

Apr 12: PMIK appealed to the leaders of rich countries, the UN Secretary-General and heads of financial institutions to give debt relief to developing countries like Pakistan so that they could combat the deadly Covid-19 in a better way.

Apr 13: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) declared the Appointments of Special Assistants to the Chief Minister Balochistan Act, 2018, null and void.

Apr 13: Former senior minister Abdul Aleem Khan was re-inducted into the Punjab cabinet after a gap of 14 months.

Apr 13: The IHC dismissed a petition filed against the establishment of Tiger Force.

Apr 13: Two Army Aviation pilots were martyred when their

trainer aircraft crashed near Gujrat during a routine training mission.

The pilots were identified as Major Umer, the instructor pilot, and Lt. Faizan, the trainee pilot.

Apr 14: Pakistan became the 40th country where 100 or more people died of the novel coronavirus.

Apr 14: Newly-inducted Abdul Aleem Khan was restored to his 'status of senior minister' and given the portfolio of food.

Apr 14: Former Pakistan first-class cricketer Zafar Sarfraz passed away at 50.

Apr 14: Veteran actor, producer and director Syed Ejazul Hasan Bukhari, known as Syed Asad Bukhari in film industry, died.

Apr 14: Prime Minister's Military Secretary (MS) Brigadier Naseem Iftikhar Cheema was transferred and replaced with Brigadier Muhammad Ahmad.

Apr 14: US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and Commander Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan General Austin Scott Miller called on COAS General Bajwa at the GHQ

Apr 15: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an agreement to provide \$8.32 million in financing to Punjab for enabling it to enhance water availability and increase agricultural productivity in the province.

Apr 15: Veteran journalist Shahidur Rehman passed away. He was 74.

Apr 15: Former CJP Justice Mohammad Bashir Jehangiri breathed his last. He was 83.

Apr 15: Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera was posted as secretary cabinet. He has also been given the additional charge of secretary, ministry of commerce.

I will survive: but for how long?

Studies looking at how long coronaviruses can last outside of their hosts

To understand the virus that causes COVID-19 researchers* looked at **previous studies** on coronaviruses to see how long they last on **different surfaces outside the body of a living host**

*Scientists from the Greifswald University Hospital and Ruhr-Universität Bochum, both in Germany



Generally, coronaviruses tested lasted **1 - 9 days** on inanimate surfaces such as metal, rubber or plastic

The good news is that they can **mostly be inactivated within about a minute** with agents containing

- Hydrogen peroxide
- Ethanol
- or
- Sodium hypochlorite (found in bleach)



Test results *selected*



Image of SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19 released by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Virus	Material	Temp	time	Up to
MERS ¹	Steel	20°C	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	2-days
		30°C	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	1 day
		21°C	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	5 days
HCoV ²	Aluminium		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	8 hrs
	Plastic		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	6 days
	Silicon rubber		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	5 days
	Surgical glove (latex)		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	8 hrs
	SARS ³	RT*	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	5 days
	Wood		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	4 days
	Paper		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	5 days
	Plastic		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	4 days

1 Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

2 Human coronavirus (other than the COVID-19 virus)

3 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (Strain P9)

*Room temperature, usually about 20-22°C

INTERNATIONAL

Feb 16: South Korea's Park In-bee won the Australian Open Golf tournament.

Feb 16: The Munich Security Conference concluded. The theme for this year's conference was "Westlessness".

Feb 16: The two-day Global Women's Forum opened in Dubai, UAE, with the theme "The Power of Influence."

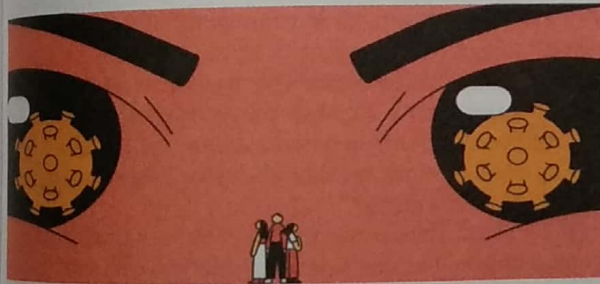
Feb 16: England beat South Africa in a high-scoring third and final Twenty20 International to clinch the series.

Feb 17: The UAE launched its first floating solar power plant in Abu Dhabi. Located off Nurai Island, the floating solar panels will provide an additional 80 kilowatts of solar power energy to the nearby Zaya Nurai resort.

Feb 17: An Israeli aircraft flew through Sudanese airspace for the first time, in what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called another example of warming ties with formally hostile states. Israel remains technically at war with Sudan, which supported hardline Islamists — including, for a period, Al-Qaeda — during the rule of president Omar al-Bashir.

Feb 17: The UAE issued a licence for a reactor at its Barakah nuclear power plant, the first in the Arab world.

Feb 17: European Union foreign ministers agreed to a naval operation to enforce an arms embargo on war-torn Libya.



Feb 17: Indian officials denied a British lawmaker, Debbie Abrahams, entry after she landed at New Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport. A Labour Party MP, Abrahams chairs a parliamentary group focused on Occupied Kashmir.

Feb 18: Dr Ashraf Ghani secured a second term as president of Afghanistan, according to final results of the Sept. 28, 2019 election.

Feb 18: Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton and football superstar Lionel Messi shared this year's Laureus sportsman of the year award. This was the first time a footballer won the award and also the first occasion in the event's 20-year history when the jury reached a tied decision.

Feb 18: A Turkish court acquitted leading businessman and rights defender Osman Kavala in a highly controversial trial over the anti-government "Gezi Park" protests of 2013.

Feb 19: Former South Korean president Lee Myung-bak was taken to prison to begin a 17-year term for bribery and embezzlement.

Feb 19: Frenchman Martin Fourcade won his 11th world biathlon title, equalling the record haul of individual golds held by Norway legend Ole-Einar Bjoerndalen.

Feb 20: A Kashmiri reporter Ahmer Khan was named the winner of the 2019 Agence France-Presse Kate Webb Prize for his coverage on the ground in India-held Kashmir during

India's lockdown of the disputed region.

About Kate Webb Prize

The Kate Webb Prize, with a 3,000 euro (\$3,400) purse, honours journalists working in perilous or difficult conditions in Asia. It is named after a crusading AFP reporter Kate Webb who died in 2007 at the age of 64, after a career covering the world's troublespots. Born in New Zealand, Ms Webb earned a reputation as a fearless reporter while covering wars and other historic events in Asia during a career spanning four decades. She made her name in Vietnam and also worked in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, India, South Korea and the Middle East.

The award is administered by AFP and the Webb family. It was first awarded in 2008.

Feb 20: Sweden created two \$1 million prizes for solutions to feed billions of people, as climate change threatens the world's food supply and a growing population requires sustainable food systems.

Feb 20: Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq issued a decree removing the name of his predecessor from the national anthem.

Feb 20: France and Germany signed a 150 million euro (\$161.84 million) deal to develop a prototype of the next generation fighter jet.

Feb 20: US President Donald Trump named Richard Grenell as acting director of national intelligence.

Feb 20: Veteran New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor became the first cricketer to play 100 internationals in all three formats of the game.

Feb 21: Lisel Mueller, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, died. She was 96.

Feb 21: The Ethiopian runner Ababel Yeshaneh set a world record in the women's half marathon by winning the Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon in 1 hour, 4 minutes, 31 seconds, knocking 20 seconds off the previous record set by Joyciline Jepkosgei in Valencia in 2017.

Feb 21: FATF placed Iran on its blacklist after it failed to comply with international anti-terrorism financing norms.

Feb 21: General election was held in Iran.

Feb 22: Finance ministers and central bank governors from G20 nations met in Riyadh where they weighed the potential impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the world economy.

Feb 22: South Sudan rebel leader Riek Machar was sworn in as his country's first vice president.

Feb 22: An Egyptian court acquitted two sons of former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak and six others in a case known in the Egyptian media as stock exchange manipulation.

Feb 23: Thich Quang Do, a dissident Vietnamese Buddhist monk who has effectively been under house arrest since 2003 and was nominated multiple times for the Nobel Peace Prize, died aged 93.

Feb 23: Saudi Arabia introduced one-year multiple entry visit visas for Pakistanis and all other applicants who have a valid UK, US or Schengen visa stamped on their passports. The new multiple-visa will be valid for one year and the visitors will also be allowed to perform Umrah.

Feb 23: Polish mountaineer Denis Urubko quit climbing after scaling all 14 peaks above 8,000 metres 23 times and without

ever getting frostbitten.

Feb 23: Iran reported its lowest turnout in a general election since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, after a poll in which half of the candidates were barred.

Feb 24: US fourth seed Reilly Opelka captured the ATP Delray Beach Open title, outlasting Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in the final.

Feb 24: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad submitted a letter of resignation to the country's king.

Feb 24: China decided to postpone its annual parliament session for the first time since the Cultural Revolution, as the country battles the coronavirus outbreak.

Feb 24: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the UN Human Rights Council's main annual session in Geneva, Switzerland where he launched a "call to action" against rising attacks on human rights, highlighting the persecution of minorities and "alarming levels of femicide".

Feb 24: US President Donald Trump reached India on an official visit, becoming the seventh US President to land on the Indian soil since December 1959, when one of his predecessors, Dwight Eisenhower, was greeted with a 21-gun salute at New Delhi.

Feb 24: Katherine Johnson, a ground-breaking black NASA mathematician whose life was portrayed in the movie "Hidden Figures," died aged 101. Johnson's calculations helped put the first man on the Moon in 1969, but she was little known until the Oscar-nominated 2016 movie that told the stories of three black women who worked at NASA.

Feb 25: The prime minister of East Timor resigned from his office.

Feb 25: The last marshal of the Soviet Union, Dmitry Yazov, who was a key player in the political turmoil that precipitated the collapse of the USSR, died aged 95.

Feb 25: The Assembly of the Bihar state of India passed a resolution to not implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state. The assembly also passed a resolution to

implement the National Population Register (NPR) in its 2016 format, with an amendment.

Feb 25: US President Donald Trump once again offered to mediate on the Kashmir dispute, citing good relations with leaders on India and Pakistan.

Feb 25: American Airlines Group Inc. signed a strategic partnership deal with Qatar Airways and to revive its codeshare agreement.

Feb 25: The World Health Organisation (WHO) urged the international community not to stigmatise people from the areas affected by the coronavirus epidemic.

Feb 25: A "doomsday vault" nestled deep in the Arctic received 60,000 new seed samples, including Prince Charles' cowslips and Cherokee sacred corn, increasing stocks of the world's agricultural bounty in case of global catastrophe.

Feb 25: Egypt's former president Hosni Mubarak, who ruled for three decades before he was ousted amid the Arab Spring protests in 2011, died at age 91.

Feb 25: Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe inside four days in the one-off Test.

Feb 25: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations announced to provide e-locust devices controlled by Global Positioning System (GPS) in the affected areas in order to support Pakistan to control the attack affecting crops across the country.

Feb 26: The Maldives hired prominent human rights lawyer Amal Clooney to represent it at the UN's highest court in seeking justice for Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslims.

Feb 26: Germany's highest court ruled that a 2015 law banning professional assisted suicide was unconstitutional, saying in a landmark decision that people have "the right to a self-determined death".

Feb 26: Maria Sharapova, the Russian five-time Grand Slam champion who became one of the highest paid sportswomen in the world, announced retirement at the age of 32.

Feb 27: Israel approved nearly 1,800 new homes in settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Feb 27: In a first, two commercial satellites pulled off the impressive manoeuvre of docking with each other, where one of them would service the other. If successful, the mission would enable the Intelsat 901, to continue its job for five more years. The daring effort can usher a whole new industry to refurbish ailing satellites, consequently reducing the amount of space junk clogging the Earth's orbit.

Feb 27: Russia successfully test-launched its Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile from a military vessel for the first time.

Feb 27: Earth has acquired a second "mini-moon" about the size of a car, according to astronomers who spotted the object circling our planet. The mass — roughly 1.9–3.5 metres (6–11 feet) in diameter — was observed by researchers Kacper Wierzbach and Teddy Pruyne at the NASA-funded Catalina Sky Survey in Arizona on the night of February 15.

Feb 27: A US federal government commission noted that efforts were being made in India to disenfranchise Muslims while the government was failing in its duty to protect citizens. "The brutal and unchecked violence growing across Delhi cannot continue," said Anurima Bhargava, head of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).



Feb 27: Australia defeated South Africa in the series-deciding third Twenty20 International.

Feb 27: Tunisia's new government consisting of Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh, thirty ministers and two secretaries of state was sworn in.

Feb 27: The world's nuclear watchdog IAEA gave its backing to Japanese plans to release contaminated water from the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean.

Feb 28: Chinese swimmer Sun Yang was banned for eight years after he broke anti-doping rules.

Feb 28: Freeman J. Dyson, a mathematical prodigy who left his mark on subatomic physics before turning to messier subjects like earth's environmental future and the morality of war, died. He was 96.

Feb 28: Panic over the spread of coronavirus severely hit global stock markets, setting the stage for what will be the

Feb 29: Yumi Kajihara became the first Japanese woman to be crowned as a world track cycling champion.

Mar 01: Jack Welch, who led General Electric through two decades of extraordinary corporate prosperity and became the most influential business manager of his generation, died. He was 84.

Mar 01: Yemen's Houthi rebels captured Al-Hazm, capital of the northern province of Al-Jawf.

Mar 01: Slovakia's centre-right, anti-graft OLaNO opposition party won the country's general election.

Mar 01: The Vatican unsealed the archives of history's most contentious pope Pius XII.

Mar 01: World number two Rafael Nadal captured his first ATP Tour title of 2020, defeating unseeded Taylor Fritz in the final of the Mexico Open.

Mar 01: Parliamentary polls were held in Tajikistan, the first

History of deadly plagues, epidemics and global pandemics

Major outbreaks

Before 1300

Plague of Athens
430 BC
Estimated deaths:
100,000

Antonine plague
165 - 180
5 - 7 million

Chinese smallpox
737
million

Plague of Justinian
541 - 542
25 - 100 million

After 1300

Black death (Bubonic plague)
1347 - 51
25 - 50 million

Great plague of London
1665 - 66
100,000

Smallpox (in Mexico)
1520
8 million

Cocoliztli (possibly typhoid, Mexico)
1545 - 48
15 million

Cocoliztli
1578
2 million

Great plague of Marseille
1720 - 23
40,000

Russian plague
1770 - 72
100,000

Spanish flu
1918 - 19
50 million

Russian flu
1889-90
1 million

Asian flu
1957-58
1.1 million

Hong Kong flu
1968 - 70
1 million

● 1 million or more deaths*
● Less than 1 million

HIV
1981-
32 million+

COVID-19
2020-
100,000+ as of Apr 10

Ebola
2014-16
11,300

MERS
2012 -
850

Swine flu
2009 - 10
151,700-575,00

SARS
2002 - 03
770

*Toll estimates vary according to different sources

worst week since the 2008 financial crisis.

Feb 28: Luxembourg became the first country in the world to offer a free public transport system.

Feb 28: Spanish public prosecutors filed the country's first lawsuit against the spread of 'fake news' which targets a woman who tweeted a video falsely claiming to show migrant children harassing a teacher in Spain.

Feb 29: The United States signed a landmark deal with the Taliban, laying out a timetable for a full troop withdrawal from Afghanistan within 14 months. Washington's chief negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar inked the accord in the Qatari capital of Doha.

Feb 29: Malaysia's little-known ex-interior minister, Muhyiddin Yassin, was elected the country's new prime minister.

in the country's post-Soviet history without the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan.

Mar 01: Sri Lanka defeated West Indies in the third ODI to win the series 3-0.

Mar 01: Ethiopian Birhanu Legese won the Tokyo Marathon for the second year in a row, racing to victory in two hours, four minutes and 15 seconds.

Mar 02: North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles, weeks after Pyongyang threatened to demonstrate a "new strategic weapon" and its deadline for Washington to offer sanctions relief expired.

Mar 02: Sri Lanka's eighth legislature ended as parliament was dissolved at the end of the four and half years of its five-year term.

Mar 02: Uruguay's new President Luis Lacalle Pou was sworn in to office.

Mar 03: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet informed India of its application to be a third party in one petition against contentious citizenship law in the country's highest court.

Mar 04: Ukrainian lawmakers approved the resignation of Prime Minister Oleksiy Goncharuk.

Mar 04: Dublin-based Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara were awarded the Pritzker prize—the first time a female duo has scooped architecture's most prestigious award.

Mar 05: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged India to "confront extremist Hindus" and "stop the massacre of Muslims."

Mar 06: Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe in third ODI to complete a 3–0 sweep in series.

Mar 06: West Indies defeated Sri Lanka to seal the two-match Twenty20 series.

Mar 07: Saudi Arabia detained three senior princes including Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, the younger brother of King Salman, and Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the king's nephew, for allegedly planning a coup.

Mar 07: Saudi Arabia reopened the area around the sacred Kaaba in the Grand Mosque, reversing one of a series of measures introduced to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

Mar 07: The influential jazz pianist McCoy Tyner, known for his work with the John Coltrane quartet, died. He was 81.

Mar 07: US President Donald Trump announced that Mark Meadows would be his new chief of staff.

Mar 08: Australia crushed India to win a record-extending fifth Women's Twenty20 World Cup.

Mar 09: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his rival Abdullah Abdullah simultaneously conducted oath-taking ceremonies for the new President of Afghanistan.

Mar 10: The United States began withdrawing troops from Afghanistan.

Mar 10: Russian President Vladimir Putin opened the door to constitutional changes that would allow him to remain in power until 2036.

Mar 10: Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani signed a decree to facilitate the release of Taliban prisoners in Afghan jails.

Mar 10: The UN Security Council unanimously approved a United States resolution over the recent deal between Washington and the Afghan Taliban, a rare endorsement of an agreement with a militant group.

Mar 10: King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands apologised for his country's aggression during its colonial rule of Indonesia and formally recognised the Southeast Asian country's independence date.

Mar 11: The WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced that Covid-19 can be characterised as a pandemic.

Mar 11: Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in prison for rape and sexual assault.

Mar 11: Bangladesh thrashed Zimbabwe T20 to clinch the two-match series 2–0.

Mar 13: Nepal barred climbers from all mountains, including Everest, because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mar 13: Greece swore in Katerina Sakellaropoulou, a 63-year-old senior judge, the first woman president in its history.

Mar 13: US Soccer president Carlos Cordeiro resigned.

Mar 13: Dana Zatopkova, the 1952 Olympic javelin champion

and wife of four-time Olympic running champion Emil Zatopek, died at the age of 97.

Mar 13: India's cabinet approved a rescue plan for Yes Bank under which the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, would take a 49% stake in Yes Bank.

Mar 13: US President Donald Trump declared a national emergency to combine America's public and private resources to fight coronavirus and also launched a new Google site to screen millions of Americans.

Mar 13: Former US Army soldier and WikiLeaks source Chelsea Manning was released from prison.

Mar 13: Indian authorities released Farooq Abdullah, an influential Kashmiri lawmaker who had been held for the last seven months.

Mar 14: Microsoft announced that co-founder Bill Gates has left its board of directors to devote more time to philanthropy.

Mar 14: Hong Kong democracy activist Chan Kin-man walked free from prison.

Mar 15: Israel's president gave opposition leader Benny Gantz the first opportunity to form a new government.

Mar 17: The Euro 2020 soccer Championship was postponed for a year due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Mar 17: The Copa America, which was due to kick off in June in Argentina and Colombia, was postponed by a year to 2021.

Mar 17: US-led coalition troops began leaving Iraq bases.

Mar 18: The European Union (EU) started banning travellers from outside the bloc for 30 days.

Mar 18: IMF rejected economically devastated Venezuela's request for a \$5 billion loan to help it cope with the coronavirus.

Mar 18: The Abel Prize for mathematics was awarded to Israeli-American Hillel Furstenberg and Russian-born Gregory Margulis, both probability experts.

Mar 18: New Zealand's parliament voted to de-criminalise abortion.

Mar 18: A court in Uzbekistan sentenced the daughter of the country's late long-time leader Islam Karimov to more than 13 years in prison for extortion and embezzlement.

Mar 19: Greece handed over the Olympic flame to Tokyo 2020 organisers.

Mar 19: Sri Lanka indefinitely postponed parliamentary elections that were scheduled for April.

Mar 20: India executed four men for the gang-rape and murder of a woman, Jyoti Singh, on a Delhi bus in 2012 — Nirbhaya case that sparked nationwide protests and

international revulsion.

Mar 21: UN released its World Happiness Report according to which Finland emerged as the world's happiest nation for the third year running.

Mar 21: The United States announced testing of an unarmed prototype of a hypersonic missile, which flew at more than five times the speed of sound, or Mach 5.

Mar 21: Czech ice hockey legend Vladimir Zabrodsky, a silver Olympic medallist and two-time world champion, died at the age of 97.

Mar 21: North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast.

Mar 21: The central banks of the United States, the euro zone, Canada, Britain, Japan and Switzerland agreed to increase the frequency of their one-week US dollars credit facility.

Mar 22: China started the first phase of a clinical trial for a novel coronavirus vaccine.

Mar 23: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for an "immediate global ceasefire" to protect vulnerable civilians in conflict zones from the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mar 23: US Marines and Emirati forces held their biennial military exercise, called Native Fury.

Mar 23: Greece suspended flights from Britain and nearly all incoming travel from Turkey.

Mar 24: The 2020 Tokyo Olympics were postponed until 2021. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said the games would be held not later than summer of 2021 but they would still be called the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Mar 24: Colorado abolished the death penalty, becoming the 22nd US state to repeal the punishment.

Mar 24: An exasperated US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced to immediately cut \$1 billion in aid to Afghanistan as Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his rival Abdullah Abdullah showed no sign of ending their bitter feud.

Mar 24: Veteran Afro-jazz legend Manu Dibango died of Covid-19.

Mar 25: The White House and Senate reached agreement on a \$2 trillion stimulus package for the US economy.

Mar 25: Sudanese Defence Minister Lieutenant General Jamal al-Din Omar died while in neighbouring South Sudan for peace talks with his country's main rebel groups.

Mar 25: The Hague District Court ordered that The Dutch state must pay compensation — ranging from 10,000 euros (\$10,800) to 123 euros — to relatives of 11 men executed by colonial troops during Indonesia's independence war in 1946 and 1947.

Mar 25: The United Nations launched a humanitarian response plan featuring a \$2 billion appeal for the world's poorest people.

Mar 25: Israel's parliamentary speaker, Yuli Edelstein, a member of Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, resigned.

Mar 26: Brenton Tarrant, an Australian far-right extremist charged with murdering 51 Muslim worshippers at two

mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, flipped his plea to guilty.

Mar 26: The US government indicted Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and other top Venezuelan officials on charges of "narco-terrorism".

Mar 26: G20 nations pledged a "united front" in the fight against coronavirus, injecting \$5 trillion into the global economy.

Mar 26: The International Cricket Council (ICC) postponed all qualifying events for the 2021 Twenty20 World Cup and 50-overs version in 2023.

Mar 26: Leaders of G20 convened an extraordinary summit via video link to coordinate multilateral response to the pandemic.

Mar 26: The United States blacklisted five Iran- and Iraq-based companies and 15 individuals for supporting terrorist groups.

Mar 26: US-led forces pulled out of a second base in Iraq.

Mar 27: The US Space Force launched its first national security mission, sending an ultra-secure military communication satellite into orbit.

Mar 27: US President Donald Trump signed into law an act that requires increased US support for Taiwan internationally, prompting a denunciation by China.

Mar 27: The US military cancelled large-scale exercises involving thousands of troops in the Philippines in May.

Mar 27: Michel Hidalgo, who coached current world champions France to their first major football title at the 1984 European Championship, died at the age of 87.

Mar 27: IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva said that the coronavirus pandemic has driven the global economy into a downturn that will require massive

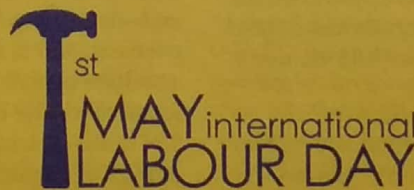
funding to help developing nations.

Mar 28: Guinea voted to back a new constitution, in a blow to President Alpha Conde's opponents who fear the reforms are a ploy to extend his grip on power.

Mar 28: President Trump invoked the rarely-used Defense Production Act (DPA) to order to force auto giant General Motors to manufacture ventilators.

About the Act

Passed in September 1950 at the start of the Korean War, the DPA was modelled on the War Powers Acts of 1941 and 1942, which gave President Franklin Delano Roosevelt sweeping authority to control the domestic economy during World War II. The original DPA gave the president a broad set of powers including the ability to set wages and prices as well as ration consumer goods, though not all of these powers have been renewed. The law has been reauthorized by Congress numerous times, most recently in the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act of 2019. It is set to expire in 2025. The current version of the law still gives the executive branch substantial powers. It allows the president, largely through executive order, to direct private companies to prioritize orders from the federal government. The president is also empowered to "allocate materials, services, and facilities" for



national defense purposes, and take actions to restrict hoarding of needed supplies. To bolster domestic production, the president may also offer loans or loan guarantees to companies, subject to an appropriation by Congress; make purchases and purchase commitments; and install equipment in government or private factories. Companies can also be authorized to coordinate with each other, which might otherwise violate antitrust laws.

Mar 28: President Donald Trump signed into law the \$2 trillion rescue plan to salvage a US economy crippled by the novel coronavirus.

Mar 28: US civil rights leader Reverend Joseph Lowery who campaigned with Martin Luther King died aged 98.

Mar 29: The two-year leadership ban slapped on Australian skipper Steve Smith after the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa ended.

Mar 29: Cliver Alcalá, a retired Venezuelan general who was charged by the United States with "narco-terrorism" along with President Nicolás Maduro, surrendered in Colombia to US authorities.

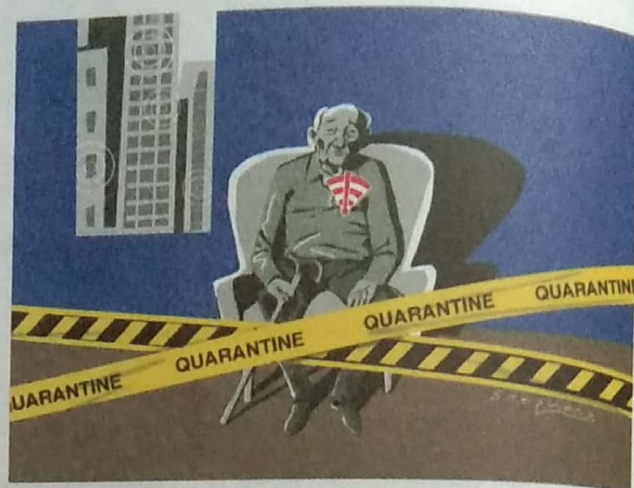
Mar 29: The US-led Coalition forces handed over the K1 Air Base in the northern Iraqi province of Kirkuk to Iraq's military.

Mar 30: The Yemeni-American poet Threia Almontaser won the Walt Whitman Award for best first book for his "The Wild Fox of Yemen" that will come out in April 2021.

Mar 30: Britain named Ken McCallum, a career spy who led the response to the attempted murder of Russian former double agent Sergei Skripal, as the new head of its MI5 domestic intelligence agency.

How is MI5 different to MI6?

MI5, formally Security Service, is the intelligence agency charged with internal security and domestic counterintelligence activities of the United Kingdom. It is authorized to investigate any person or movement that might



threaten the country's security. Although MI5 is responsible for domestic counterespionage, it has no powers of arrest, which devolve instead on Scotland Yard. MI5 was formed in 1909 under the leadership of Vernon Kell, then a captain in the British army, to identify and counteract German spies then working in Britain.

On the other hand, the Secret Intelligence Service, commonly referred to as MI6, works on suppressing and countering threats from abroad. Its roles include counter-terrorism, counter-proliferation, providing cyber security intelligence and disrupting terrorism and other criminal activities overseas. MI6 is also charged with the conduct of espionage activities outside British territory. It has existed in various forms since the establishment of a secret service in 1569 by Sir Francis Walsingham. It was constituted in its present form in 1912 by Commander (later Sir) Mansfield Cumming as part of Britain's attempt to coordinate intelligence activities prior to the outbreak of World War I.

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Mar 30: Popular Japanese comedian Ken Shimura died of the Covid-19. He was 70.

Mar 30: Hungary's parliament endorsed a bill giving nationalist premier Viktor Orban sweeping new powers to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Mar 30: Nuclear-armed North Korea successfully tested 'super-large multiple rocket launchers'.

Mar 31: India sealed off the headquarters of a Muslim missionary group and ordered an investigation into accusations it held religious meetings that have allegedly infected dozens of people with coronavirus.

Mar 31: Lancashire chairman David Hodgkiss died after contracting coronavirus.

Apr 01: Wimbledon organisers scrapped the oldest Grand Slam tennis tournament for the first time since World War II.

Apr 02: Modi government withdrew various privileges and perks including rent-free accommodation to former chief ministers of Indian-Occupied Kashmir (IOK).

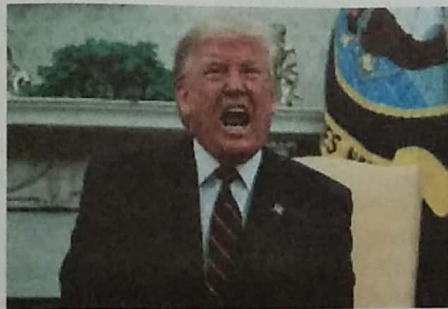
Apr 02: Tony Lewis, renowned for devising the Duckworth-Lewis rain rule for limited overs cricket, passed away at the age of 78.

Apr 02: Guinean President Alpha Conde's party won more than two-thirds of the seats in legislative elections.

Apr 02: The United States became the first nation with more than 200,000 Covid-19 cases.

Apr 02: The 2021 World Games, which are held every four years and feature 32 sports that are not part of the Olympic programme, were pushed by a year.

Apr 03: The UN General Assembly approved a resolution calling for "international cooperation" and "multilateralism" in the fight against Covid-19.



Apr 03: Pro-European centrist Keir Starmer was unveiled as new leader of UK's Labour party, while Angela Rayner became the new deputy leader.

Apr 03: US President Donald Trump fired Michael Atkinson, the inspector general of the US intelligence community, who was involved in triggering an impeachment probe of the president last year.

Apr 03: FIFA extended the age limit for the men's football tournament at the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics. The amended Olympic rule retains the players born on or after Jan 1, 1997 standard.

Apr 03: Honduran ex-president Rafael Callejas, who pleaded guilty in the United States for his part in the sweeping FIFA gate football corruption scandal, died aged 76.

Apr 03: Wang Quanzhang, a leading Chinese human rights lawyer, was released from prison after almost five years behind bars.

Apr 04: British actress Honor Blackman, who was best known for playing Bond girl Pussy Galore, died at the age of 94.

Apr 06: The British Open was cancelled for the first time since World War II.

Apr 07: President Donald Trump's chief spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham stepped down.

Apr 07: The Taliban broke off talks with the Afghan government on a prisoner exchange.

Apr 07: Japan declared a month-long state of emergency over a spike in coronavirus cases.

Apr 07: Mainland China reported no coronavirus deaths for the first time since the pandemic began.

Apr 07: Guinea's President Alpha Conde enacted a new constitution.

Apr 08: England all-rounder Ben Stokes was named the

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'Leading Cricketer in the World' in the 2020 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

Apr 08: The World Athletics Championships were moved back 11 months to July 2022 to avoid clashing with the Tokyo Olympics.

Apr 08: US Senator Bernie Sanders suspended his presidential campaign, clearing the way for rival Joe Biden to win the Democratic nomination.

Apr 08: Mauro Ferrari, the head of the European Research Council, resigned in protest against the bloc's handling of its coronavirus response.

Apr 08: Former Ecuadoran president Rafael Correa was sentenced in absentia to eight years in prison for corruption.

Apr 08: China ended its lockdown of Wuhan, the original epicentre of the coronavirus crisis.

Apr 08: The Afghan government released 100 low-risk Taliban prisoners.

Apr 09: The Saudi-led coalition began a unilateral ceasefire in Yemen's long war.

Apr 09: Linda Tripp, whose secretly-taped conversations with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky provided evidence of an affair with President Bill Clinton, died at 70.

Apr 09: Iraqi President Barham Saleh nominated spy chief Mustafa Kadhem as the country's new prime minister.

Apr 09: China's Supreme Court ruled in favour of basketball legend Michael Jordan in a long-running trademark dispute, ending an eight-year legal battle with a Chinese sportswear firm that illegally used his name.

Apr 09: Former South Africa spinner and Zimbabwe selector, John Harcourt du Preez, fondly known as Jackie, passed away.

Apr 09: France's competition regulator said Google must start paying media groups for displaying their content.

Apr 10: The Human Right Watch (HRW), a leading international rights watchdog, called on India to repeal its Citizenship Amendment Act and discard a planned national

citizenship registry, saying they discriminate against Muslims.

Apr 11: The United States announced a 10 million dollar reward for "any information on the activities, networks and associates" of Muhammad Kawtharani, a Lebanese Hezbollah commander.

Apr 12: OPEC+ members agreed to cut output by nearly 10 million barrel per day in order to boost plummeting oil prices due to the coronavirus crisis and a Russia-Saudi price war.

Apr 12: Sri Lanka's Roman Catholic Church forgave the suicide bombers behind the attacks that killed at least 279 people last Easter.

Apr 12: Stirling Moss, a daring, speed-loving Englishman regarded as the greatest Formula One driver never to win the world championship, died. He was 90.

Apr 12: Bangladesh executed a military captain less than a week after he was arrested after nearly 25 years on the run over the assassination of the country's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Apr 13: The ADB tripled the size of its response to the Covid-19 pandemic to \$20 billion.

Apr 15: China's economy contracted for the first time in around three decades in the first quarter.

Apr 15: The G20 nations announced a one-year debt relief for the world's poorest nations.

Apr 15: US President Donald Trump halted funding to the World Health Organization.

Apr 15: Kayleigh McInany, a former Fox News figure who is fiercely loyal to President Donald Trump, took over as his top press secretary.

Apr 15: South Korean voters backed President Moon Jae-in, giving his Democratic party a parliamentary majority in national election.

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MCQs / NATIONAL

1. On Feb 16, Pakistan's Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi and _____ Dominic Inglot won their first ATP Tour doubles titles at the New York Open 2020.

- (a) Australia's (b) Britain's
(c) Germany's (d) Serbia's

2. On Feb 16, Nadir Magsi won the 15th Cholistan Jeep Rally in men category while _____ clinched the first position in women's category.

- (a) Mahem Qureshi (b) Salma Marwat
(c) Tushna Patel (d) Razia Saeed

3. Cholistan Jeep Rally is an annual event held at the Derawar Fort in district _____.

- (a) Bahawalpur (b) Multan
(c) DG Khan (d) Jhelum

4. Nawab Sadeq Muhammad Khan Abbasi V was the _____ and last ruler of Bahawalpur State.

- (a) 12th (b) 13th
(c) 14th (d) 15th

5. On Feb 16, Pakistan won their first Kabaddi World Cup after they defeated _____ in the final.

- (a) Australia (b) India
(c) Iran (d) Canada

6. The final of the World Circle-Style Kabaddi Cup 202 was played in _____.

- (a) Gujrat (b) Rawalpindi
(c) Faisalabad (d) Lahore

7. The headquarters of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is in _____.

- (a) Beijing (b) Paris
(c) Geneva (d) Bonn

8. 'International Conference on 40 Years of Hosting Afghan Refugees in Pakistan: A New Partnership for Solidarity' opened on Feb 17 in _____.

- (a) Islamabad (b) Moscow
(c) Shanghai (d) Brussels

9. Pakistan carried out a successful test of the nuclear-capable Air-Launched Cruise Missile Ra'ad-II on _____.

- (a) Feb 18 (b) Feb 20
(c) Feb 22 (d) Feb 24

10. The 4.85 metre-long cruise missile Ra'ad-II has a range of _____ kilometres.

- (a) 500-550 (b) 550-600

(c) 600-650 (d) 650-700

11. Anwar Mansoor Khan, who resigned from office on Feb 20, was the _____ Attorney-General for Pakistan.

- (a) 25th (b) 29th
(c) 33rd (d) 34th

12. On Feb 20, AD Khawaja, who was currently serving as the IG National Highways and Motorways Police, was posted as Secretary _____.

- (a) Interior (b) Establishment
(c) Narcotics Control
(d) Defence Production

13. On Feb 20, the Competition Commission of Pakistan approved the Uber and _____ merger.

- (a) Rasai (b) Careem
(c) GoGet (d) Greenwheels

14. Careem, a vehicle for hire



company, is based in _____.

- (a) Dubai (b) Karachi
(c) Kuala Lumpur (d) Istanbul

15. On Feb 20, the fifth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) kicked off in _____.

- (a) Islamabad (b) Lahore
(c) Peshawar (d) Karachi

16. Olympian Usmanullah Khan, a former South Asian and Asian Championship gold medallist, breathed his last on _____.

- (a) Feb 17 (b) Feb 18
(c) Feb 19 (d) Feb 20

17. On Feb 20, the 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) concluded in _____.

- (a) Beijing (b) Islamabad
(c) Moscow (d) Dushanbe

18. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is a publication released annually by Idara-i-Taleem-o-Aagahi which is based in _____.

- (a) Karachi (b) Islamabad
(c) Rawalpindi (d) Lahore

19. Dr Yasrab Tanvir Gondal, better known as Dr Lal Khan for his Marxist views, breathed his last on _____.

- (a) Feb 19 (b) Feb 20
(c) Feb 21 (d) Feb 22

20. Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad was started on _____.

- (a) 16 Jan 2017 (b) 22 Feb 2017
(c) 23 Mar 2018 (d) 22 Feb 2019

21. On Feb 22, Peshawar Zalmi's former skipper, and a noted cricketer Darren Sammy was granted the honorary citizenship of Pakistan.

- (a) Kenyan (b) West Indian
(c) South African (d) Zimbabwean

22. On Feb 22, the Ministry of Law and Justice notified Khalid Jawed Khan as the _____ Attorney-General for Pakistan.

- (a) 29th (b) 35th
(c) 37th (d) 40th

23. Kundian forest is located in _____ district of Punjab.

- (a) Multan (b) DG Khan
(c) Bahawalpur (d) Mianwali

24. The fifth Pakistan Mother Languages Literature Festival was held in _____.

- (a) Islamabad (b) Lahore
(c) Hyderabad (d) Karachi

25. On Feb 24, _____ assumed the charge as MD and CEO of the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

- (a) Tabinda Shah (b) Farrukh Khan
(c) Zubair Gilani (d) Saadia Javed

26. On Feb 25, Pakistan paid an amount of \$93.5 million to _____, in order to settle a 40-year-old trade dispute.

- (a) Russia (b) UAE
(c) Canada (d) Malaysia

27. Androulla Kaminara is the Ambassador of _____ to Pakistan.

- (a) Italy (b) Sri Lanka
(c) EU (d) Australia

28. On Feb 25, former mayor of _____ and a senior leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami, Naimatullah Khan, passed

away.

- (a) Karachi (b) Peshawar
(c) Hyderabad (d) Quetta

29. Pakistan confirmed the first 2 cases of novel coronavirus on _____.

- (a) Feb 26 (b) Feb 27
(c) Feb 28 (d) Feb 29

30. Noted _____ folk artist, Mahjabeen Qazalbash, whose original name was Suriyya Khanum, breathed her last on Feb 26.

- (a) Hindko (b) Pashto
(c) Seraiki (d) Balochi

31. On Feb 28, the federal government appointed Mushtaq Mahar the new police chief of _____.

- (a) Punjab (b) Balochistan
(c) Sindh (d) KP

32. The current Federal Minister for National History and Literary Heritage is _____.

- (a) Waleed Iqbal (b) Shafqat Mehmood
(c) Shireen Mazari (d) Ali Zaidi

33. On Mar 03, former director general _____, Haji Ahmed Malik, passed away.

- (a) SMEDA (b) PEMRA
(c) OGRA (d) NEPRA

34. The trendsetting comedian Amanullah Khan passed away on _____.

- (a) Mar 03 (b) Mar 04
(c) Mar 05 (d) Mar 06

35. On Mar 06, the International Trade Committee of EU Parliament extended the GSP-Plus status for Pakistan for another _____ years.

- (a) Two (b) Three
(c) Four (d) Five

36. On Mar 12, Pakistani filmmaker _____ won the Outstanding Achievement Award for his film, 'Enemy Within: Caught in the Crossfire'.

- (a) Samar Minallah (b) Sabiha Sumar
(c) Shehzad Hameed
(d) Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy

37. Former federal minister, veteran politician and a pioneer member of PPP, Dr Syed Mubashir Hassan, passed away on _____.

- (a) Mar 11 (b) Mar 12
(c) Mar 13 (d) Mar 14

38. On Mar 15, Lt. Gen (retired) Syed

Iftikhar Hussain Shah, a former governor of _____ province, died

- (a) Punjab (b) Sindh
(c) Balochistan (d) KP

39. Zafar Lashari, who died on Mar 17, was the first novelist of _____ language.

- (a) Seraiki (b) Hindko
(c) Brahvi (d) Balti

40. On Mar 17, Syed Mumtaz Gilani, former Federal Minister for _____ passed away.

- (a) Education (b) Human Rights
(c) Defence (d) Interior

41. Pakistan reported its first death from Covid-19 — a 50-year-old man who was being treated at Mardan Medical Complex — on _____.

- (a) Mar 17 (b) Mar 18
(c) Mar 19 (d) Mar 20

42. On Mar 19, Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan took oath as the 50th chief justice of the _____ High Court.

- (a) Peshawar (b) Sindh
(c) Lahore (d) Balochistan

43. President Dr Arif Alvi signed the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Bill, 2020 into law on _____.

- (a) Mar 19 (b) Mar 20
(c) Mar 21 (d) Mar 22

44. On Mar 21, the government appointed Atif R. Bukhari the new Chairman of _____.

- (a) Board of Investment

(b) Pakistan Steel Mills

- (c) PEMRA (d) OGRA

45. Pakistan has been ranked _____ on the World Happiness Report ranking of the United Nations.

- (a) 64th (b) 66th
(c) 78th (d) 98th

46. The government notified oil, gas and related operations as 'Essential Services' on _____.

- (a) Mar 22 (b) Mar 23
(c) Mar 24 (d) Mar 22

47. On Mar 26, _____ and Balochistan governments banned congregational prayers at mosques.

- (a) Punjab (b) Sindh
(c) KP (d) AJK

48. On Mar 27, AJK Prime Minister, Raja Farooq Haider, announced 'Nishan-i-Kashmir' award for Dr Usama Riaz of _____, who embraced martyrdom while treating coronavirus patients.

- (a) Gilgit-Baltistan (b) Muzaffarabad
(c) Chikothi (d) Mirpur

49. The highest official award of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is _____.

- (a) Nishan-i-Kashmir
(b) Hilal-i-Kashmir
(c) Sitara-i-Kashmir
(d) Tamgha-i-Kashmir

50. Pakistan squash great Azam Khan, who died of Covid-19 on Mar 28, won _____ consecutive British Open titles

Plasma in the battle against COVID-19

How taking antibodies from people who recovered from infection with SARS-CoV-2 may help others

Convalescent plasma therapy

Person infected with a new virus

Active immunity

Person recovers as the immune system creates new antibodies

Passive immunity

Patient recovers with boost received from plasma transfusion

Initially has no antibodies in blood to fight the virus

Blood plasma, extracted from recovered patient, containing antibodies

A different patient, infected with the same virus, receives transfusion

Red blood cells

Plasma, or serum
Liquid part of blood

Since the 1930s, doctors have given antibody-rich blood serum to boost the defences of people sick with the same infection

Has been used in China on COVID-19. A study on 10 severe adult cases has shown promising results

Though preliminary research on COVID-19 looks promising, randomised trials are yet to be completed

The therapy has saved lives in polio and Ebola epidemics, measles outbreaks and in the 2003 SARS epidemic

- (a) Three (b) **Four**
(c) Five (d) Nine
51. On _____, the Supreme Court suspended the high courts' orders for the release of under-trial prisoners in view of the coronavirus outbreak.
(a) Mar 25 (b) Mar 26
(c) Mar 28 (d) **Mar 30**
52. On _____, the Indian government announced a new set of laws for Indian-Occupied Kashmir, including domicile rights for Indian citizens.
(a) Mar 30 (b) Mar 31
(c) **Apr 01** (d) Apr 02
53. On Apr 01, _____ was declared as Pakistan's Best Digital Bank for 2020 by Asiamoney.
(a) ABL (b) **UBL**
(c) HBL (d) MCB
54. On Apr 02, _____ commuted the death sentence of Ahmed Omer Sheikh to seven years in prison in the abduction and murder case of American journalist Daniel Pearl.
(a) **SHC** (b) LHC
(c) IHC (d) Supreme Court
55. On Apr 03, Prime Minister Imran Khan gave the status of industry to the _____ sector.
(a) Cotton (b) Petroleum
(c) Agricultural (d) **Construction**
56. On Apr 03, Pakistan and the _____ signed a \$200 million 'Pandemic Response Effective Project' (PREP).
(a) EU (b) IMF
(c) UNDP (d) **World Bank**
57. Hammad Azhar is the current Minister for _____.
(a) Defence Production
(b) **Industries**
(c) National Food Security
(d) Economic Affairs
58. On Apr 06, the government appointed Nausheen Amjad the Chairperson of the Federal Board of Revenue in place of _____.
(a) Hafeez Sheikh (b) Ikram ul Haq
(c) Ahmad Sukhera (d) **Shabbar Zaidi**
59. On Apr 07, the FATF extended its deadline for complying conditions for Pakistan for _____ months.
(a) Two (b) **Three**
(c) Four (d) Six
60. On Apr 07, President Dr Arif Alvi

administered oath to _____ as Federal Minister for National Food Security.
(a) Aminul Haq (b) **Fakhar Imam**
(c) Babar Awan (d) Hammad Azhar

61. On Apr 07, the _____ High Court ordered for restoration of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council.
(a) Peshawar (b) **Islamabad**
(c) Sindh (d) Lahore

62. Mehdi Shah, a senior bureaucrat and brother-in-law of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, passed away on _____.
(a) Apr 06 (b) **Apr 09**
(c) Apr 11 (d) Apr 12

63. On Apr 09, former senator and central leader of _____, Saranjam Khan, passed away.
(a) PTI (b) PPP
(c) JUI-F (d) **PML-N**

64. The incumbent chairman of the Federal Land Commission is _____.
(a) **Babar Yaqoob Fateh Muhammad**
(b) Raja Ashfaq Sarwar
(c) Arbab Shahzad Khan Afridi
(d) Justice Saeed Akram Khan

65. Prime Minister's current Military Secretary is _____.
(a) Brigadier Ahmad Ali Shah
(b) **Brigadier Muhammad Ahmad**
(c) Brigadier Muhammad Zubair
(d) Brigadier Naseem Iftikhar Cheema

INTERNATIONAL

1. On Feb 16, _____ Park In-bee won the Australian Open Golf tournament.
(a) North Korea's (b) China's
(c) **South Korea's** (d) Vietnam's

2. The theme for this year's Munich Security Conference, which concluded on Feb 16, was _____.
(a) Regain West (b) **Westlessness**
(c) Salvaging EU (d) Think Beyond

3. On Feb 16, the two-day Global Women's Forum opened in _____, UAE, with the theme "The Power of Influence."
(a) Paris (b) **Dubai**
(c) Geneva (d) Davos

4. On Feb 17, the UAE launched its first floating solar power plant in _____.
(a) **Abu Dhabi** (b) Dubai
(c) Ajman (d) Sharjah

5. On Feb 17, the _____ issued a licence for a reactor at its Barakah nuclear power plant, the first in the Arab world.
(a) Qatar (b) **UAE**
(c) Saudi Arabia (d) Kuwait

6. On Feb 17, Indian officials denied entry in India to a British lawmaker _____ who chairs a parliamentary group focused on Occupied Kashmir.
(a) Zaya Nurai (b) Osman Kavala
(c) F. W. De Klerk (d) **Debbie Abrahams**

7. On Feb 18, _____ became the very first footballer to win the Laureus sportsman of the year award.
(a) Harry Kane (b) Paul Pogba
(c) **Lionel Messi** (d) Mohamed Salah

8. On Feb 20, a Kashmiri reporter _____ was named the winner of the 2019 Agence France-Presse Kate Webb Prize.
(a) **Ahmer Khan** (b) Uzma Bokhari
(c) Sania Bhatt (d) Sajjad Shaukat

9. The Kate Webb Prize is named after an AFP reporter Kate Webb who belonged to _____.
(a) Australia (b) **New Zealand**
(c) Belgium (d) Iceland

10. On Feb 20, _____ created two \$1 million prizes for solutions to feed billions of people.
(a) Norway (b) Hong Kong
(c) **Sweden** (d) Italy

11. Sultan Haitham bin Tariq is the current ruler of _____.
(a) Jordan (b) **Oman**
(c) Morocco (d) Brunei

12. On Feb 20, _____ and Germany signed a 150 million euro deal to develop a prototype of the next generation fighter jet.
(a) Italy (b) China
(c) **France** (d) UK

13. On Feb 20, _____ batsman Ross Taylor became the first player to play 100 international matches in all three formats of the game of cricket.
(a) Australia (b) **New Zealand**
(c) West Indies (d) South Africa

14. On Feb 21, a German-American poet, Lisel Mueller, who won the Pulitzer Prize in _____, died.
(a) 1995 (b) **1997**
(c) 1999 (d) 2003

15. On Feb 21, the _____ runner Ababel Yeshaneh set a world record in the women's half marathon by winning the Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon in 1 hr, 4 min, 31 sec.

- (a) Kenyan (b) **Ethiopian**
(c) Norwegian (d) Algerian

16. On _____, FATF placed Iran on its blacklist after the country failed to comply with international anti-terrorism financing norms.

- (a) **Feb 21** (b) Feb 22
(c) Feb 23 (d) Feb 24

17. On Feb 22, a meeting of the finance ministers and central bank governors from G20 nations which was organized to weigh the potential impact of the coronavirus epidemic on the world economy was held in _____.

- (a) **Riyadh** (b) Tokyo
(c) New York (d) New Delhi

18. On Feb 22, Riek Machar was sworn-in as the first vice president of _____.

- (a) Sudan (b) **South Sudan**
(c) Algeria (d) Nigeria

19. On Feb 23, _____ mountaineer Denis Urubko announced to quit climbing after scaling all 14 peaks above 8,000 metres 23 times and without ever getting frostbitten.

- (a) Canadian (b) **Polish**
(c) Russian (d) Japanese

20. Lee Kuan Yew was the founding father and the first Prime Minister of _____.

- (a) **Singapore** (b) Hong Kong
(c) Taiwan (d) Thailand

21. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad resigned from office on _____.

- (a) Feb 22 (b) Feb 23
(c) **Feb 24** (d) Feb 26

22. The UN Human Rights Council's main annual session was held in _____.

- (a) Davos (b) Paris
(c) **Geneva** (d) Munich

23. On Feb 24, US President Donald Trump reached India, becoming the _____ US President to land on the Indian soil.

- (a) Fifth (b) **Seventh**
(c) Ninth (d) Twelfth

24. The first US president to visit India was _____, who landed in the capital, New Delhi on Dec. 14, 1959.

- (a) **Dwight D. Eisenhower**
(b) Richard M. Nixon
(c) Jimmy Carter (d) Bill Clinton

25. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who served from 1953 to 1961, was the _____ president of the United States.

- (a) **34th** (b) 35th
(c) 36th (d) 37th

26. Katherine Johnson, whose calculations helped put the first man on the Moon in 1969, died on _____.

- (a) Feb 22 (b) **Feb 24**
(c) Feb 26 (d) Feb 28

27. Dmitry Yazov, the last marshal, and a former highest ranking military official of the Soviet Union, died on _____.

- (a) Feb 22 (b) Feb 24
(c) **Feb 25** (d) Feb 28

28. On Feb 25, Hosni Mubarak, _____ former president, who ruled the country for nearly three decades, died.

- (a) **Egypt's** (b) Tunisia's
(c) Lebanon's (d) Libya's

29. On Feb 26, _____ hired prominent human rights lawyer Amal Clooney to represent it at the UN's highest court in seeking justice for Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslims.

- (a) OIC (b) Bangladesh
(c) **The Maldives** (d) Gambia

30. On Feb 26, _____ Maria Sharapova, who remained five-time Grand Slam champion, announced her retirement at the age of 32.

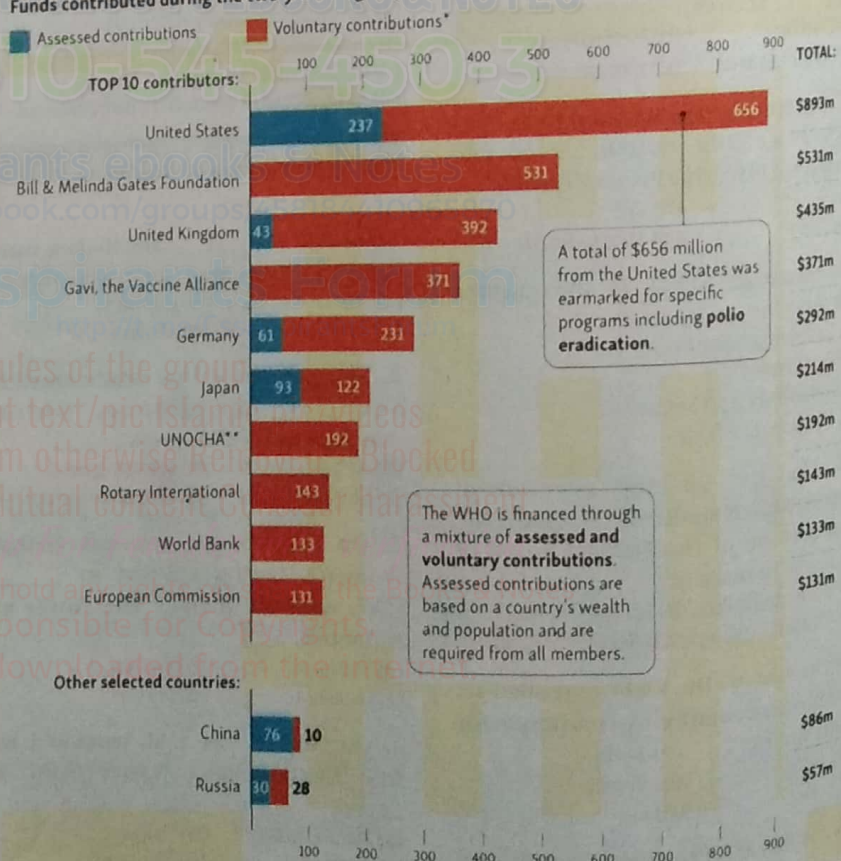
- (a) **Russia's** (b) Serbia's
(c) Sweden's (d) Italy's

31. On Feb 27, _____ successfully test-launched its Tsirkon (Zircon)

Financial Contributors To The WHO

These are the countries and institutions that gave the most money to the World Health Organization (WHO) during 2018-2019.

Funds contributed during the two-year budget cycle of 2018-2019 (in millions of USD):



hypersonic cruise missile from a military vessel for the first time.

- (a) **Russia** (b) Iran
(c) Kazakhstan (d) Turkey

32. Elyes Fakhfakh is the incumbent prime minister of _____.

- (a) Qatar (b) Iraq
(c) **Tunisia** (d) Turkey

33. On Feb 28, _____ became the first country in the world to offer a free public transport system.

- (a) Lebanon (b) **Luxembourg**
(c) Greece (d) Iran

34. On Feb 29, the United States signed a landmark deal with the Taliban in _____.

- (a) New York (b) **Doha**
(c) Makkah (d) Dubai

35. On Mar 02, _____ new President Luis Lacalle Pou was sworn in to office.

- (a) Hungary's (b) Switzerland's
(c) **Uruguay's** (d) Latvia's

36. The incumbent UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet belongs to _____.

- (a) Vietnam (b) **Chile**
(c) Lithuania (d) Cuba

37. On Mar 08, _____ crushed India to win a record-extending fifth men's Twenty20 World Cup.

- (a) South Africa (b) England
(c) **Australia** (d) New Zealand

38. The United States began withdrawing troops from Afghanistan on _____.

- (a) Mar 07 (b) Mar 08
(c) **Mar 10** (d) Mar 12

39. On Mar 10, King Willem-Alexander of _____ apologised for his country's aggression during its colonial rule of Indonesia.

- (a) Sweden (b) Norway
(c) Malaysia (d) **Netherlands**

40. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the current Director-General of the World Health Organization, belongs to _____.

- (a) **Ethiopia** (b) Ghana
(c) Gambia (d) England

41. On Mar 13, _____ swore in Katerina Sakellariopoulou, a 63-year-old senior judge, the first woman president in its history.

- (a) Brazil (b) Argentina
(c) **Greece** (d) Iceland

42. US President Donald Trump declared a national emergency to combine America's public and private resources to fight coronavirus on _____.

- (a) Mar 12 (b) **Mar 13**
(c) Mar 16 (d) Mar 18

43. On Mar 18, the IMF rejected _____ request for a \$5 billion loan to help it cope with the coronavirus.

- (a) Iran's (b) **Venezuela's**
(c) Afghanistan's (d) Serbia's

44. On Mar 18, the Abel Prize for mathematics was awarded to Israeli-American Hillel Furstenberg and _____-born Gregory Margulis.

- (a) **Russia** (b) Ghana
(c) Cambodia (d) Malta

45. On Mar 19, _____ handed over the Olympic flame to Tokyo 2020 organisers.

- (a) UK (b) **Greece**
(c) IOC (d) None of these

46. According to the UN's World Happiness Report, the world's happiest nation is _____.

- (a) Switzerland (b) Germany
(c) Vietnam (d) **Finland**

47. On Mar 23, US Marines and _____ forces held their biennial military exercise, called Native Fury.

- (a) Saudi (b) Kuwaiti
(c) **Emirati** (d) Qatari

48. On Mar 24, Colorado abolished the death penalty, becoming the _____ US state to repeal the punishment.

- (a) **22nd** (b) 26th
(c) 32nd (d) 39th

49. Lieutenant General Jamal al-Din Omar was the Defence Minister of _____.

- (a) South Sudan (b) **Sudan**
(c) Tunisia (d) Morocco

50. On Mar 25, the _____ launched a humanitarian response plan featuring a \$2 billion appeal for the world's poorest people.

- (a) USA (b) World Bank
(c) **United Nations** (d) IMF

51. The US Space Force launched its first national security mission, sending an ultra-secure military

communication satellite into orbit, on _____.

- (a) Mar 26 (b) **Mar 27**
(c) Mar 28 (d) Mar 30

52. Kristalina Georgieva is the current head of _____.

- (a) World Bank (b) European Union
(c) **IMF** (d) ECB

53. Alpha Conde is the president of _____.

- (a) Gambia (b) **Guinea**
(c) Mozambique (d) South Africa

54. On Mar 30, Britain named _____ as the new head of its MI5 domestic intelligence agency.

- (a) Andrew Parker (b) **Ken McCallum**
(c) Stephen Lander (d) Antony Duff

55. Tony Lewis, renowned for devising the Duckworth-Lewis rain rule for ODI cricket, passed away on _____.

- (a) Apr 01 (b) **Apr 02**
(c) Apr 03 (d) Apr 05

56. On Apr 02, _____ emerged as the first nation with more than 200,000 Covid-19 cases.

- (a) **USA** (b) France
(c) Spain (d) China

57. On Apr 08, _____ was named the 'Leading Cricketer in the World' in the 2020 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

- (a) **Ben Stokes** (b) Steve Smith
(c) Virat Kohli (d) Rohit Sharma

58. China ended its lockdown of Wuhan, the original epicentre of the coronavirus crisis, on _____.

- (a) Apr 06 (b) **Apr 08**
(c) Apr 10 (d) Apr 12

59. On Apr 10, the _____-based Human Right Watch (HRW), a leading international rights watchdog, called on India to repeal its Citizenship Amendment Act and discard the national citizenship registry, as they discriminate against Muslims.

- (a) Canberra (b) **New York**
(c) Geneva (d) London

60. US President Donald Trump halted funding to the World Health Organization on _____.

- (a) Apr 12 (b) Apr 13
(c) Apr 14 (d) **Apr 15**



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